

Chirac arrives in Lebanon on third visit in two years

BEIRUT (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac arrived here Friday evening on his third visit to Lebanon in just over two years. Mr. Chirac was welcomed at the airport by Lebanon's three top officials: President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. Mr. Chirac has been crusading to strengthen his country's ties with Arab countries, choosing Lebanon — which was under a French mandate until independence in 1943 — as a "natural" gateway to the region. The president, who visited Lebanon during two previous Middle East tours in April and October 1996, does not begin his official engagements until Saturday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Palestinian support for peace drops 11%

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's popularity and Palestinian support for the peace process with Israel have declined sharply in the past six months, by 7 per cent and 11 per cent respectively, according to a survey released Friday. The drop came during a period of continued deadlock over the scope of an Israeli troop withdrawal in the West Bank. Mr. Arafat has staked his political prestige on the process, and setbacks are likely to undermine his position. In the survey, 63 per cent of 1,208 respondents said they supported the peace process, compared to 74 per cent in November. Support for him dropped from 46 per cent in November to 38.7 per cent in May. The approval rating for his government slipped from 71 per cent to 64 per cent. Still, 65 per cent of the respondents said they were optimistic about the future while 33 per cent were pessimistic. The poll was conducted by the Palestinian-owned Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre and had a margin of error of 3 per cent.

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Saudi Prince Abdullah due Monday for talks with King Consultations for convening mini Arab summit intensify

By Alia A. Toukan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz is expected to hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Amman on Monday on prospects for holding an emergency Arab summit, senior officials said on Friday.

The first such high-level visit to the Kingdom since the 1991 Gulf war that caused a strain in bilateral ties, the Saudi crown prince will arrive in Amman after holding talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus today.

Consultations for holding an Arab summit to deal with the crisis in the Middle East peace process intensified in the past few weeks, after Israel's refusal to accept the American proposals to jump-start the current deadlock on the peace front.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has been pleading for an emergency summit to counter the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Egypt is also stepping up its effort to convene the summit for early June.

The venue of the summit has not been decided, but reports indicate that Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco are possible locations.

In principle, Jordan supports the idea of holding an Arab summit, provided it delivers a positive message, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jawad Anani told the Jordan Times on Friday.

Also, it must build on the resolution of the 1996 Cairo summit which affirmed the Arab states' commitment to a "strategy of peace," Dr. Anani said.

The Cairo summit, however, also threatened to halt normalisation with the Jewish state if there was no progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

"We should have a set agenda [on what will be discussed] before going to the summit," said another senior official source requesting anonymity.

Jordan is insisting that the outcome and the tone of the final communiqué of the

summit be "positive and pro-active," and reiterates the Arab's support for a "peace strategy," the officials said.

Since the Israeli premier is regarded by the international community as the one responsible for obstructing peace, the summit should adopt a strategy that ensures that the Arabs don't budge on their "positive stand," said the official.

The format and the representation of the attendees of the proposed summit are still not clear, he said.

There has not been a decision on whether the summit

should be a comprehensive one that would include most, if not all, the Arab countries, or whether it should be a mini-summit that would only comprise several Arab countries.

A mini-summit would likely include the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and perhaps Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Jordan would prefer a mini-summit, said the source, since that would ensure that discussions would concentrate on the deadlocked peace process,



rather than on comprehensive Arab issues that would likely be brought up in the format of a general summit.

According to analysts, Jordan and Egypt, in particular, are also concerned a summit would pit them against more hardline Arab states, keen on exerting pressure on them to freeze their ties with the Israel — a move that is out of the question for both countries.

There is no fear of Syria calling for a halt to peace with Israel in the framework of a mini-summit, said the source.

But both officials say that the idea of a summit, in whatever form, still needs more diplomatic effort and discussions to make it a reality.

Inter-Arab consultations have increased in the past month. Jordan has held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and with Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Mubarak has held discussions with Mr. Assad, King Hassan of Morocco, and Mr. Arafat, who returned from a visit to Saudi Arabia last Sunday.

Reducing UNRWA services is 'recipe for disaster,' Prince Hassan warns

By Ghalia Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan urged donor nations backing a U.N. relief agency caring for over 3.5 million Palestinian refugees not to forsake moral, political, legal or humanitarian duties to avoid human suffering.

He said reducing the services of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), facing a \$77 million deficit, would lead to disaster in the region.

"For the international community to give refugees the message that it is abandoning their cause would lead to dangerous consequences. It would create more economic and political despair, which I see as the main cause of violence," the Prince told an informal

meeting of UNRWA donors in Amman on Thursday.

"I feel that any further reduction of UNRWA services when the average expenditure per refugee per annum is already less than \$100 is a recipe for disaster," he said.

"Any wavering in our commitment can only lead to more suffering. These people have suffered for long enough and are becoming justifiably more pessimistic."

Prince Hassan said the agency was not receiving necessary funds for it to maintain the level of essential health, education and relief services within its U.N. mandate.

"Last year, UNRWA's estimated budget deficit was \$40 million. This year, the projected deficit is larger — about \$77 million," he said.

Jordan hosts 1.34 million U.N.-registered Palestinian

refugees forced to flee their homes in the 1948 and 1967 Middle East wars. Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are home to the rest of refugees.

Some donor countries were disengaging from UNRWA at a time "when the peace process has not yet even started to systematically address the refugee problem," Prince Hassan told the meeting at which donor countries announced \$12 million in contributions (see separate story page 3).

Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) are expected to address the issue of refugees in their final status negotiations that should have started in May 1997 and ended by mid-1999.

(Continued on page 7)

World leaders criticise Pakistan's nuclear tests Pakistan vows to match any Indian threat with 'vengeance'

Agencies

AFTER MATCHING India's testing of five nuclear devices with its own, Pakistan's foreign minister said Friday his country is ready to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty right away — if rival India also signs.

So far, however, India has rejected the global treaty on nonproliferation because it does not require existing nuclear powers to disarm.

In an interview with the Associated Press Pakistan's Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub also declared his country a nuclear power and vowed to retaliate "with vengeance and devastating effect" against any attack by India.

"We have an active programme ... we have nuclear weapons, we are a nuclear power," Mr. Ayub said. "We have an advanced missile programme."

That newest addition to Pakistan's missile arsenal was test fired on April 6. The long-range Ghauri missile will be fired with nuclear warheads.

"These missiles are capable of carrying both a conventional and nuclear warhead ... but with a range of 1,500 kilometres no military man would launch it with a conventional warhead ... so that restricts the option to nuclear," he said.

While the world leaders condemned Pakistan's testing and threatened sanctions, people around the country knelt in prayer at mosques throughout the country to offer prayers of thanksgiving.

At Pakistan's largest Faisal Mosque in the federal capital the mullah or



A Pakistani child stands up to look on while others are offering special thanking prayers, Friday, in Faisal Mosque after five consecutive nuclear tests by Pakistan Thursday. People across the nation showed support for the government, when conducted the underground blasts despite objections and criticism from U.S. backed allies and European nations (AP photo)

'Clinton made last-minute plea with Pakistani premier'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton, in a telephone call just seven hours before Pakistan set off its nuclear explosions, begged with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif not to set off the nuclear devices. The New York Times said Friday.

Mr. Clinton offered "a changed relationship" and "to cut through the knot" of laws blocking U.S. military and economic aid to Pakistan if Mr. Sharif cancelled the tests, an unnamed U.S. official told the daily.

Mr. Clinton promised Mr. Sharif that he would try to deliver 28 F-16 fighter jets that Pakistan has paid for but never received, the official said. "The president said he unilaterally would keep trying to get closer in security terms," the official said. "It was a promise of a changed relationship."

"If you do this, we can do great things together, we can work on your economy, we can give you the tools you need to help defend your country," the official added.

Mr. Sharif's reply to Mr. Clinton, still according to the official, was:

"You have said all the right things, but the rest of the world is filing its fingernails."

The Pakistani leader commented on the failure of the international community to punish India for its nuclear tests, saying it was impossible for him not to follow suit.

"There was anguish in Sharif," the U.S. official said. "This was a man between a nuclear rock and a hard place. He was saying: 'I wish I did not have these forces acting on me, but people are demonstrating in the streets, the editorialists and the opposition are demanding I test. You have to understand my position.'"

"He as much as said this was out of his hands," Mr. Clinton told Mr. Sharif that the nuclear tests would leave him no alternative but to impose sanctions on Pakistan, the official said.

"He said, if you do this, Nawaz, I have to do this, and it'll hurt you a lot more than it'll hurt India," the official said. "If your hands are tied, mine are too." The official said the conversation ended around midnight Thursday.

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government is planning to ask for the extradition of a Jordanian suspected of involvement in the killing of eight people in Amman in January, police said Thursday.

Police Director General Nasouh Marzouk said Ahmad Mahmoud Mohamad was involved with three other men in the killing of six Iraqis, including Baghdad's charge d'affaires in Amman Hikmat Hajou, and two Egyptians in the Rabia neighbourhood.

The police official declined to name the European country where Mohammad lives, but media reports said that he was living in the Ukraine.

Lieutenant-General Marzouk, was speaking at a press conference during which he unveiled the identities of those involved in the Rabia murder and the killing of three Jordanians, including a well-known lawyer, his son and a psychiatrist.

Advocate Hanna Nadeeh,

On Jan. 17, four of the

his son Suhail and psychiatrist Awni Sa'ad were found dead at the latter's clinic in Shmeisani neighbourhood.

The police chief told reporters that the three involved in the Rabia murder were Jamal Ibrahim Ensour, Abdullah Mohamad Suleiman and Mohammad Omar Yousif Jaghabeen.

Lt. Gen. Marzouk said that Ensour was killed during a shoot-out with police in the town of Sahab on Monday. According to Lt. Gen. Marzouk,

Jaghabeen and Ensour were involved in the killing of the Nadeehs and psychiatrist Sa'ad and the killing of their getaway driver Lo'ay Hajibi.

He said that Iraqi businessman Namir Ochi, who was among those killed in Rabia crime, was targeted by the suspects because of "financial differences" with Jaghabeen.

Lt. Gen. Marzouk said that Jaghabeen was demanding money from Ochi for antiquities he smuggled to the Iraqi businessman from Iraq.

On Jan. 17, four of the

suspects arrived at the house of the Iraqi millionaire Sami George Thomas in Rabia, where Ochi was a guest, police chief said.

"When he arrived they apparently interrogated him and asked him to pay the money which he did not have at that moment. Then they decided to kill him and the other five who were present in the villa," Lt. Gen. Marzouk said.

"But when they were about to leave, the Iraqi diplomat (Hajou) arrived at the house with his wife, so they decided to kill both of them to hide any trace of the crime," he added.

"The reason why they came on that day was that Ochi was expecting a bank transfer from abroad to pay Jaghabeen," the police official said.

"The suspects decided to kill those present in the villa because one of them, Jaghabeen, repeatedly visited the house and was well-known to the villa residents," Lt. Gen. Marzouk said.

(Continued on page 7)

Annan set to okay new Iraqi oil-for-food plan — U.N. official

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A U.N. spokesman said Friday Secretary-General Kofi Annan was set to approve Iraq's crucial plan on how it will distribute food and medicine to ease the impact of sanctions on its people.

Mr. Annan has to sign off on the plan before the next six months phase of the so-called "oil-for-food" programme can begin next week. The complicated programme Iraq contends is micro-managed from New York is an object of controversy whenever it comes up for renewal.

Iraq has been permitted to sell oil to purchase food, medicine and other supplies under strict U.N. monitoring, an exception to the sweeping sanctions imposed in August

1990 when Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait.

"The new distribution plan is expected to be approved in the course of the day," said U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhardt. "Once the secretary-general has approved the plan, he will inform the Security Council of his decision."

In February, the council approved an increase in Iraqi oil exports from \$2 billion to \$5.25 billion, to begin after Mr. Annan approves Iraq's distribution plan.

But the plan calls only for a maximum \$4.5 billion in oil sales over the next six months providing Iraq can upgrade its oil industry. Of this amount \$3 billion is for humanitarian supplies while the remainder is deducted for

compensation to victims of the 1991 Gulf war and other U.N. costs.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Al Sahaf, however, told reporters he expected Baghdad could only pump a total of \$3 billion at current prices over the next six months.

U.N. officials on Thursday briefed Security Council members on the plan and reported that while it did not meet all their demands in increasing food supplies it was moving in the right direction. U.S. envoys said they would not attempt to block Mr. Annan's approval but try to make up for deficiencies in a subsequent resolution and other actions.

(Continued on page 7)

SPLA leader Garang calls on Machar to return to rebels

CAIRO (AFP) — The leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, John Garang, called on his old comrade-in-arms, Riek Machar, to rethink his alliance with the government and return to rebel ranks, an SPLA spokesman said Friday.

Colonel Garang made the call during a meeting Wednesday and Thursday at Yei near the Sudan-Uganda border, spokesman Yasser Erman told Agence France Presse.

The SPLA chief was meeting in the southeastern Bahr Al Jebel region with Kanyen Kerubino, who himself switched sides back from the government in January.

It was the first meeting between Colonel Garang and Mr. Kerubino since the Dinka leader's return to rebel ranks, Mr. Erman said.

Mr. Kerubino and Mr. Machar were among seven heads of dissident SPLA factions who signed an accord with Khartoum in April last year.

Sudan rebels claim 300 soldiers dead in major battle

CAIRO (AFP) — Three hundred Sudanese soldiers were killed Thursday in the largest battle in over a year between government forces and rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), a spokesman for Sudan's armed opposition groups said Friday.

"In the biggest battle in a year, the forces of the SPLA repulsed a major governmental offensive, killing 300 soldiers and wounding more than 500," said an opposition leader, Abdul Rahman Sa'id, in a statement here.

Twelve government soldiers were captured by the SPLA along with a T-55 tank and 11 troop transporters in the battle in the southern Blue Nile province, the statement said.

The SPLA has been fighting for 15 years to free the mainly Christian and animist south of Sudan from domination by the Islamic, Arabised north, but has held inconclusive peace talks with the current fundamentalist junta of President Omar Al Bashir, who took power in a 1989 coup.

"Colonel Garang said he was satisfied with the decision by Kerubino (to return) and called on Mr. Machar to rejoin the SPLA ranks," the spokesman said.

Mr. Machar had been the SPLA's number-two before a

falling out in the early 1990s. He is currently president of the Coordination Council for southern Sudan established to manage affairs in the region after the signing of last April's accords.

Peres says nuclear proliferation demonstrates need for peace

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Pakistan's nuclear tests highlight the risks of nuclear proliferation and make a revival of the peace process in the Middle East more urgent, former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on Friday.

Mr. Peres told Agence France Presse the risk of non-conventional war made the impasse in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations since the election of his right-wing successor, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, exactly two years ago all the more deplorable.

Mr. Peres, the architect of Israel's own nuclear programme, said Pakistan's official entry into the club of nuclear powers — the first

Islamic state to do so — did not represent "a direct threat" to Israel.

Nevertheless, "this illustrates how fragile the situation is," he said, in an allusion to Iran.

"It is urgent to make peace because time is not on Israel's side," said the former Labour leader.

"Benjamin Netanyahu is making a grave mistake if he thinks that time is on Israel's side. Meanwhile, more and more armies with non-conventional capabilities are being formed in the region. It is urgent that we make peace before we lose control of the situation," he said.

Mr. Peres blamed Mr. Netanyahu for refusing all compromise with the Palestinians, driving them to lose

interest in the goal of peace.

"Peace is becoming more and more difficult and more and more distasteful" for the Palestinians, he said.

Mr. Peres is known as the father of Israel's nuclear programme which he launched in the 1950s with the help of the French when he was director general of Israel's defence ministry.

Israel has never officially confirmed that it has nuclear weapons but foreign experts estimate that the Jewish state has between 100 and 200 warheads capable of being launched from ballistic missiles.

Along with India and Pakistan, Israel has never signed the nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty.

Brazilian woman goes on hunger strike to regain her children

BEIRUT (AP) — A Brazilian woman fighting to recover her two children from her estranged Lebanese husband entered the ninth day of a hunger strike Friday.

"I am very tired, but I will not stop until I have my children again," Vagner Bandeira, looking pale and feeble, said from her bed at the Brazilian Embassy in Beirut.

The 35-year-old mother began a hunger strike on May 20 after contacts with Lebanese authorities failed to bring back her boys, Hamze, 4, and Bilal, 2, who are with their father in the east Lebanese town of Chitoura.

Bandeira and her husband, Atef Abbas, 38, separated in April 1997 in Brazil. The boys lived with their mother until June when Mr. Abbas brought them to Lebanon, the land

of his parents.

Mr. Abbas is now wanted in Brazil for kidnapping and for forging his wife's signature on a permit to take the children out of the country. But Lebanon and Brazil have no extradition treaty.

Ms. Bandeira came to Lebanon on May 9 and has visited her sons, in the presence of her husband. The visits made her all the more determined to regain her children.

Speaking of her hunger strike, she told the Associated Press (AP): "I have already tried all other means and failed. I found this to be the only way I can attract attention to my plight." Ms. Bandeira drinks only water and refuses food.

Brazilian Ambassador Brian Neele said Ms. Bandeira would not be allowed to die or fall ill as long

as she was staying at the embassy. A physician examines her daily.

Ms. Bandeira's Lebanese lawyer, provided by the embassy, has filed a suit against Mr. Abbas in a bid to get him put on trial in Lebanon on the forging and kidnapping charges.

Dalila Figueroa, a member of the Brazilian parliament who is accompanying Ms. Bandeira, is also pushing for such an agreement that would facilitate such a trial between the two countries.

But she has had no response from the Lebanese authorities.

"We are behind her [Bandeira] all the way and we will not abandon her," Mr. Neele said. "She does not want her children to have a man convicted of criminal acts as their father," he told AP.

Mr. Abbas has denied any wrong-



ISRAELI PATROL IN CLASH AREA: Israeli soldiers with tracker dogs patrol the Israeli-Lebanese border in an area where two Israeli soldiers were killed and two others wounded when a bomb exploded late Wednesday. The Iranian-backed Hizbollah movement claimed responsibility for the attack (AFP photo)

China gave Iran steel for missiles — report

TEL AVIV (AP) — China has supplied Iran with about 1,000 tonnes of high-quality steel apparently intended for Tehran's ballistic missiles programme, an Israeli newspaper said Friday.

The transaction was a key issue in talks between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Chinese leaders in Beijing this week, the daily Haaretz reported.

Mr. Netanyahu said earlier this week that he received an "absolute commitment" from Chinese leaders that they are not providing Iran with nuclear weapons technology and will not do so in the future.

The Chinese commitment covered biological, chemical and nuclear weapons as well as surface-to-surface missiles, said an Israeli government official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Haaretz, citing U.S. sources, said the steel was apparently delivered in the last six weeks, but that American intelligence learned about it only after it arrived.

Mr. Netanyahu's diplomatic advisor, Uzi Arad, was in Wash-

ington Friday for a meeting with Robert Gallucci, the administration's special representative on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Israeli radio said.

Mr. Arad will brief Mr. Gallucci on Mr. Netanyahu's talks with the Chinese, the radio said.

In the wake of the nuclear tests carried out by Pakistan on Thursday, Israeli officials voiced concern Friday that Pakistan might supply nuclear technology to Iran.

"There could be leakage of parts, materials, or things of that sort" to Tehran, Deputy Defence Minister Silvan Shalom told Israeli army radio.

"Obviously we feel that if nuclear weapons technologies fall into the hands of Iran or Iraq, the destabilisation and danger to the peace of the world will be very serious," Mr. Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan, told The Associated Press.

An Israeli expert on India and Pakistan warned that U.S. economic sanctions against Pakistan as a punishment for the nuclear tests could prove counterproductive.

Iranian threatens self-immolation over espionage charges

PARIS (AFP) — An Iranian academic has threatened to immolate himself outside the UNESCO building next Friday unless Tehran guarantees him a fair trial for alleged spying for France.

Mohammad Hussein Papoli-Yazdi, 50, a geography professor at the Ferdowsi University at Mashhad, northern Iran, said in an interview with Agence France Presse he wanted a trial at a set date with an independent jury, a defence lawyer and compensation if he is declared innocent.

Mr. Papoli-Yazdi, an associate member of France's national scientific research centre, is a cartographer whose atlas of Iran, produced with French colleague Bernard Hourcade, is to be published next month.

He said he had been interrogated by Iran's intelligence services, which had only released him in May and allowed him to leave the country after he had promised to cooperate with them and posted bail of \$50,000, obtained by mortgaging his house.

"From Tuesday I will begin a protest outside the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris to attract attention on the situation of academics and researchers in my country, and the lack of respect for the rule of law," he said.

"If the Iranian government does not respond to my demands, I will immolate myself on Friday June 5 at 9:30 a.m. French time."

Mr. Papoli-Yazdi said that 10 of his colleagues had been imprisoned and interrogated last year. He accused the intelligence services of conducting a campaign of forcing academics to spy for Iran.

U.S. army chief says no desire for military bases in Yemen

SANAA (AFP) — General Anthony Zinni, commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf, said Friday that the United States does not want to set up military bases in Yemen, but that it is seeking to strengthen military cooperation.

Gen. Zinni, who has been in Yemen since Monday for talks on cooperation and clearing mines from the 1994 civil war, said he had not raised the possibility of military bases during his discussions with Yemeni leaders.

The U.S. commander also said that Washington's top priority was security in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh last week countered newspaper reports that the two countries were on the verge of signing military accords, saying that Yemen categorically refuses to provide military facilities to Washington.

"It is strictly impossible that Yemen's territory, or the Yemeni isles, serve as bases or port facilities for foreign countries," Mr. Saleh said.

A U.S. warship made a port call in southern port city of Aden in early May, for only the second call in Yemen by the U.S. Navy since the country's unification in 1990.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court rules out mosque in central Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) — After a long battle pitting Turkey's secular and religious camps, a court has ended a bid by Islamist groups to build a mosque in the centre of Istanbul, a newspaper reported Friday. Islamist groups had pushed for the mosque in Taksim, a square which symbolises the seedier side of Istanbul with its cafes, gay bars and pornographic movie theatres. A statue of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk — the founder of modern and secular Turkey — stands in the middle of the square. The Hurriyet newspaper said the court ruled that the foundation which had obtained ownership of the land from a state-owned bank had failed to build the mosque within a 10-year limit. Opposition from secular authorities had blocked construction.

UNHCR 'concerned' over deportation threats

GENEVA (AFP) — The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Friday voiced concern over reports that a group of Iraqi asylum seekers on the Greek island of Karpathos were being threatened with deportation to Turkey. The UNHCR said information received by its office in Athens indicated some 50 Iraqis seeking asylum on the southern Greek island close to Turkey face expulsion to Turkey. Two families have reportedly been sent back to Turkey despite the fact that their family members were registered as asylum-seekers in Greece and there are reports other Iraqis have been rounded up and are awaiting expulsion. UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski said, "We strongly appeal to the Greek authorities to stop summary deportation of these people, some of whom may be fleeing persecution and be in need of protection," he said. The UNHCR states that asylum seekers should not be returned to Turkey since that country cannot be considered a safe haven "in view of continuing shortcomings in the asylum procedure there."

Uzbek president to visit Israel

TASHKENT (AP) — Uzbek President Islam Karimov will visit Israel in the first half of September, the foreign ministry of Uzbekistan said Friday. Mr. Karimov accepted an invitation on Thursday from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who stopped in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, on his way home from an official visit to China. During his four-hour stopover, Mr. Netanyahu had dinner with Mr. Karimov, the Israeli ambassador to Tashkent and representatives of the 25,000 Jews who live in mostly Muslim Uzbekistan, the foreign ministry said. Israeli television said Mr. Netanyahu impressed on Uzbek officials the serious risk of Iran emerging as a nuclear power following nuclear tests this month in India and Pakistan.

13 Iranian drug traffickers killed

TEHRAN (AFP) — At least 13 drug traffickers were killed and several others injured during a major crackdown launched by Iranian security agents in south-eastern Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency IRNA reported on Friday. Jafar Ali Zehi, also known as Gholam Shah or Gholam the Black and labelled one of the country's top international drug smugglers, was among the dead, said security services chief for Sistan-Baluchestan province Abbas Momen Abadi. Gholam Shah has been sought over the killing last year of the southeastern province's police commander General Haj Karim, he added. At least 12 members of his gang, accused of smuggling around 200 tonnes of drugs into Iran, were also killed during the crackdown near Hor, a mountainous region in the southeastern province of Kerman, IRNA said.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10Cartoon Jonny Quest
15:30Drama I Wanna Be
16:00Drama Neighbours
16:30Doc. Ocean Wild
17:00 French Programme
"Faut Pas Rever"

18:00Acapulco Bay
19:00Le Journal
19:15 French Programme
"L'oeuf de Colomb"

19:30News headlines
19:35 Quiz Show You Bet
Your Life

20:00 Cinema, Cinema
20:30Prism
21:10Drama Sirens
22:00News in English
22:30 Feature film "Double
Cross"

23:59 Comedy Are You
Being Served?

00:30End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

03:54Fajr
05:27(Sunrise) Duha
12:33Dhuhr
16:14Asr
19:39Maghreb
21:12Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
4622366
Anglican Church Tel.
4624853/4624811.
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox
Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church
Tel. 865897
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la
Salle College Tel. 5661757
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Church of Presentation, Sweifeh
Tel. 5920146
The Uniate Catholic Church
Tel. 4624757
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Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel.
892679
The Baptist Church Tel.
4628052
The Armenian Catholic
Church Tel. 771331
The Armenian Orthodox
Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Fine weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming cool at night with temperatures slightly lower than average, clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds northerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman14/27
Aqaba20/34
Deserts10/52
Jordan Valley19/34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 26 Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Adnan Al-Ashhab5602507
Dr. Ayman Al-Mutaseb875748

Dr. Jamal Jbara5347351
Dr. Abbas Al-Hakim885446
Firas pharmacy5661912
Abdali Tel. Repairs5661101
Al Asema pharmacy4637055
Nairoukh pharmacy4636762
Al Salam pharmacy4636730
Yacoub pharmacy4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy4637660
Najib pharmacy53477632
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir278852
Al Quds pharmacy(-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Hital Al Sayyid986702
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre4637111
Civil Defence Department5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue4630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 1924621111
Fire Brigade4617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police5343402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Dept.4630321
Hotel Complaints5661176
Price Complaints5605800
Water & Sewerage Complaints897467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)121

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 592199
The Islamic, Abdali5666131/7
Husseini Medical Centre Tel. 5856886
Luzmih4630195
Khalidi Maternity4642816
Al-Khaleel Maternity4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity4642362
Malhas, J. Amman4636101
Palestine, Shmeisani5607071
Shmeisani Hospital5669131
University Hospital5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Abdi, Abdali5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir775111/26
Army, Marka891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Anal Hospital5674155

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:30Damascus (RJ)
09:30Aqaba (add) (RJ)
09:45New Delhi (RJ)
10:25Beirut (RJ)
10:30Kanchi, Dubai (RJ)
10:50Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00Colombo (RJ)
15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:05Cairo (RJ)
17:30London (RJ)
23:30Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)
05:45Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights

06:05 London, Damascus (BA)
14:10 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:05Vienna (OS)
18:00Dubai, Muscat (EK)
19:00Paris (AF)
19:45Frankfurt (LH)
23:35Cairo (MS)
23:40Amsterdam (KL)
23:40Beirut (ME)
01:05 London, Damascus (BA)
02:05Belgrade (JU)
03:00Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)

10:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA and proceeding to Marka Airport) (RW)
18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:45Beirut (RJ)
07:00Aqaba (add) (RJ)
11:45 Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
12:30Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00Geneva, London (RJ)
13:00Paris (RJ)
13:15Cairo (RJ)
13:20 Amsterdam, Detroit (add) (RJ)
14:00London (RJ)
21:10Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
21:20Jeddah (RJ)
21:20Bombay (RJ)
22:00Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights

07:00Beirut (RJ)
07:35Damascus, London (BA)
15:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
15:50Vienna (OS)
19:00Paris (AF)
13:10Belgrade (JU)
04:00Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)

08:00 Aqaba (from Marka port) (RW)
09:30 Aqaba (from Marka port)
21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA)

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Princess Sarvath attends graduation ceremony

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Princess Sarvath on Thursday handed 100 high school students from the Amman Baccalaureate School their graduation certificates in a ceremony also attended by HRH Princess Alia Al Faisal.

In an address at the ceremony, Princess Sarvath told the graduates that they have entered a new phase of their lives as adult members of society and are free to choose their own careers.

"Now the time has come to 'let you go'. You are going into new conditions of work and leisure. New perspectives will open up before you and, at the same time, you will have to make various kinds of choices."

"Until now these decisions have been made largely with guidance from your parents and school. You have accepted the guiding hand that was offered to you and did your best to follow the paths that until now have been laid down for you. From now on, however, your share of that responsibility will be much greater and you will have to make decisions continuously about how you can achieve the goals you will be setting for yourselves," the Princess told the graduates at the ceremony, which was attended by their parents.

"You will enjoy greater freedom and will face greater temptations. Rules and regulations which defined the limits of what was acceptable behaviour in the school will no longer exist. You will have to decide for yourselves the code of conduct which you will try to follow."

UNRWA meeting ends with \$12 million in donations for 1998 Agency still needs \$9 million to cover basic needs — Hansen

By Ghalia Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of 28 major donor nations announced contributions totalling approximately \$12 million to the cash-strapped United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), partly covering its core deficit of \$21 million, UNRWA Commissioner General, Peter Hansen said Thursday.

However, Mr. Hansen, speaking after an informal meeting of UNRWA's major donors and host authorities, said the agency's expected income will still fall \$65 million short of the 1998 budget of \$314 million.

He added that for UNRWA to meet the basic needs of its core programmes in 1998, it needs

\$9 million to be able to retain last year's level of services.

In 1997, UNRWA received a total of about \$260 million out of a \$312 million budget.

"Since 1992, UNRWA's budget has not grown with the population... the agency is running far short in contributions in relation to its budget," said Mr. Hansen.

"We should appeal to the donors saying that the glass is half empty... let us have it filled up early and rapidly that we will not be forced to make any reductions in services," Mr. Hansen said.

The lack of adequate funding from major donor countries during the past few years has forced UNRWA to adopt some austerity measures and cost reductions, including freezing appoint-

ments of teachers, charging refugee students school fees, and cancelling hospitalisation programmes.

"We have undergone such cost cutting as concentrating on reducing the international staff of UNRWA by 24 per cent last year. People who were hired on a temporary basis have also seen their contracts expire," Mr. Hansen said.

He added that should additional resources be made available to UNRWA, the agency would consider reinstating some of the services it provides for Palestinian refugees, such as cash emergency assistance, shelter rehabilitation and university scholarships.

"I have told the donors that I do not want to begin discussing austerity measures before I'm completely

sure that we don't have the money. Why should we increase the fear and uncertainty among the refugee community and UNRWA employees?" the commissioner general added.

At Thursday's meeting, the U.S. donated \$7 million to UNRWA, bringing its contribution to a record level of \$77 million.

The United Kingdom announced a contribution of \$1.6 million, bringing its contribution in 1998 to \$14.9 million. The U.K. has also offered the agency technical assistance in various areas.

An additional amount of about \$1.5 million was donated by Denmark, increasing its 1998 contribution to \$8 million. Sweden announced a contribution of \$1.3 million, bringing its

contribution in 1998 to about \$18.6 million. Spain donated an additional \$700,000 increasing its contribution in 1998 to \$3.2 million.

A 30 per cent increase in funding to \$175,000 was announced by Luxembourg, which said this contribution would be further increased in 1999. Turkey contributed \$80,000 and Switzerland announced that its allocation for the General Fund in 1998 had been increased by 10 per cent.

Canada announced a contribution of \$260,000 to projects in Lebanon and a further \$394,000 for the UNRWA headquarters move from Vienna. France announced that it would contribute rice to the agency's food aid programme.

According to an UNRWA statement, several other donors used the occasion to reaffirm their 1998 pledges to UNRWA's budget.

Mr. Hansen told reporters that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, struck by the seriousness of the situation of Palestinian refugees when he visited Jordan two months ago, has written to a number of heads of state asking them to increase their contributions to UNRWA.

UNRWA was set up after the war that led to Israel's creation in 1948 to offer educational, health and social services to some 3.4 million registered Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jordan alone is home to over 1.2 million U.N.-registered refugees.

Pioneers of country's industry to be honoured in ceremony today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) today will hold a special ceremony under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein to honour the pioneers of Jordanian industry.

At the ceremony, the King will distribute shields and certificates of merit to a group of Jordanians who started the first industries in

Jordan and contributed to the country's economic development.

An ACI statement issued on the eve of the event expressed appreciation of the King's patronage of the industrial sector and determination to work for the continuous transfer of modern technology to the Kingdom to enable it to meet the requirements and chal-

lenges of the coming century.

The 99-member group to be honoured by the King includes those who were responsible for the establishment of the first five major industries, former ACI heads, the chamber's founding members and former and current directors, according to the statement. It quoted ACI President

Khaldoun Abu Hassan as saying that the ceremony will serve as an incentive for all those involved in industrial production in Jordan. He added that Jordan's industrial sector, which is responsible for nearly 90 per cent of the country's overall exports and employs 150,000 workers, is determined to help attract more investment.

Court acquits weekly newspaper, editors of slandering former deputy

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a landmark decision, a court this week acquitted the satirical weekly *Abed Rabbo* and two of its editors of the charge of slandering a former Islamist deputy by describing him as a "hypocrite."

In the case of Deputy Ibrahim Zeid Kilani versus *Abed Rabbo*, First Instance Court Judge Tawfiq Quesi ruled that the newspaper was criticising Dr. Kilani in his capacity as a public figure and not as a private person.

"It is the contention of this court that, when the

newspaper accused the plaintiff of being a hypocrite, it was referring to his public performance and not his private personality," Judge Quesi wrote in his verdict.

Judge Quesi said the constitution and press law grants the press and journalists the freedom of presenting news, information and commentary and the freedom of expression to every Jordanian through the spoken and printed word, drawing, and photography.

Yusef Gheishan, 41, then editor-in-chief of the newspaper, and Omar Nadi, 34, then responsible editor, were ordered detained by

the Amman prosecutor after a complaint was filed by then Deputy Kilani.

They were both charged with slander and tarnishing Dr. Kilani's image and dignity.

They were detained following the publication of a caricature in a June 1996 edition which depicted Deputy Kilani as a "hypocrite."

During questioning by the prosecution, Mr. Nadi claimed that he was on sick leave when the caricature was published, while Mr. Gheishan claimed he was not the editor-in-chief during the same period.

Judge Quesi added in his verdict: "Criticising a public employee or parliamentarian is not considered slander if it was done with a good intention."

"It is clear that when the newspaper accused Deputy Kilani of being a hypocrite, it was criticising his general performance or a certain instance of general political hypocrisy and not personal hypocrisy, which proves that the newspaper had good intentions and did not intend to slander him," Judge Quesi said.

"This is a victory for both the press and the judiciary," Mr. Gheishan, now a columnist at *Al Arab Al Yawm*, said.

Delegation leaves today for parliamentary meeting in Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation will leave today for the city of Palermo in Italy to take part in a two-day meeting of parliamentarians from Europe and the countries of the Mediterranean.

The meeting, which begins Sunday, will tackle topics connected with cooperation in social and cultural fields, human rights, trade and the movement of immigrants, in addition to economic reform programmes and the role of parliaments in these developments.

Said Hayel Srour, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament and head of the

four-member parliamentary delegation, said the meeting will enhance "common European-Mediterranean concepts in economic, political and social fields."

He highlighted the positive role that Europe is playing in conjunction with Arab states in promoting peace and stability in the Mediterranean region and European assistance to the developing nations in the area.

Mr. Srour said the delegation will submit two working papers on Jordan's concept of continued European-Mediterranean cooperation in cultural, social and economic domains and

on promoting respect for human rights. The papers will also outline Jordan's legislation concerning investment, access to world markets and prospects for wider scopes of cooperation, he said.

Mr. Srour said the delegation will also submit reports on the Kingdom's continuing efforts toward comprehensive peace, its drive to make the Middle East free of mass destruction weapons and its views on the sustainable development that can be attained through continued cooperation between the participating countries on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea.

Memorandum issued on media coverage of judicial matters

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Press and Publications Department (PPD) this week circulated a memorandum from Attorney General Fouad Sweidan reminding newspapers that the publication of "news, information or criticism that might influence judges or witnesses is illegal."

The attorney general said newspapers were also publishing court verdicts before they become final.

According to the memorandum, Article 224 of the Penal Code stipulates that "anyone who publishes news, information, or criticism that could affect any judge or any witness, or encourages any individual to withhold information, will be punished by imprisonment not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding JD50."

Article 11 of the Court's Sanctions Law stipulates that "anyone who publishes any material that could affect the judges who are assigned to look into any case will be penalised by imprisonment not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding JD50."

In his memorandum, Mr. Sweidan asked the PPD to remind newspapers not to publish such articles in the future. "Otherwise, the newspaper and its editor and reporter will be subject to legal prosecution," he wrote.

Police to investigate allegations of mistreatment at rehabilitation centre

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities today will question several employees at a rehabilitation centre over their alleged mistreatment of a 35-year-old physically disabled woman, according to an official source.

The source, who asked not to be identified, told the Jordan Times Friday that the woman, A.M., who has been treated for the past two years at the rehabilitation centre, was subjected to beating and chemical burns.

"Preliminary examination of the woman indicated that she had suffered from traces

of beating and burns by a chemical liquid, chlorine," the source said.

The source added that the woman claimed that employees at the centre mixed chlorine with water when they bathed her, "but she was not sure that their intention was to burn her."

According to the source,

the woman visited her family once every month.

In her last visit, the source maintained, her family noticed the marks on her body and informed the authorities.

The source said that at least five employees from the centre will be subpoenaed by police for questioning.

Conservation society urges increased public awareness on environmental threats

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) held a one-day media workshop Thursday to review the threats to the Kingdom's environment and emphasise the media's role in helping to deal with environmental challenges.

Chris Johnson, RSCN director of conservation, said that one of the threats is the lack of public awareness on the issue.

"Many people in Jordan do not know what has been destroyed in the country's environment," he told a group of journalists at the workshop.

According to RSCN sta-

tistics, at least seven large mammal, one bird and ten plant species have become extinct in Jordan, including the Arabian leopard, the Syrian brown bear and the blue-necked ostrich. Of the 150 species of coral in the Aqaba reef, not less than 30 per cent have disappeared, while only one of the seven wetlands in Jordan of international importance enjoys legal protection.

"The RSCN is very concerned in making people take action regarding these issues," Mr. Johnson said, adding that otherwise the quality of life would be affected.

He remarked that nature is the "basis of Jordan's economy because it has created the natural splendour of the

great tourist hot-spots of Petra, Wadi Rum, the Dead Sea, and other beautiful places that are not yet promoted."

Yahia Khalid, RSCN head of reserves, reviewed the society's history and objectives, stressing that the natural reserves were established to protect the environment and create a system of sustainable development that aims at striking a balance between "helping nature and helping people."

The RSCN is responsible for six major nature reserves covering over 1,000 square kilometres and has plans to establish seven more.

Mohammad Abdul Fattah, head of the RSCN's research and survey section,

presented a recent report prepared by the society on Jordan's environmental situation which will be published and distributed to a number of decision-makers in the country in order to encourage them to take advanced steps regarding the situation.

This was followed by a discussion session with the media about their role in raising public awareness and promoting integrated conservation and sustainable development in order to face environmental threats.

The workshop was held to prepare for a seven-month media campaign that will be launched next Sunday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Haya to attend anti-smoking seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Haya will attend a seminar Sunday on combating smoking. The seminar will focus on activating legislation to combat smoking.

Majali commends public security personnel

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Friday sent a mes-

sage to public security personnel commending them for their efforts in solving the Rabia and Shmeisani crimes.

Majali receives message from Syrian PM

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Friday received a message of congratulations from his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Zu'bi on the 52nd anniversary of Jordan's independence.

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

* Theatrical performance "Federico García Lorca y Andalucía" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

* Recital of Federico García Lorca's poems (in Arabic) by Habes Hussein at Instituto Cervantes, Jahal amman on Sunday, May 31, at 5:00

EXHIBITIONS

* "Graphic — Oil on Paper" exhibition by Guider Triki at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 4643251/2), until June 26.

* Works by Christian de Portzamparc at the University of Jordan, until June 4.

what's going on

ماذا هو الجديد

Art collector honoured for returning rare Nabataean bowls

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji honoured American architect Francesco D'Anna with a ministry plaque for returning two authentic Nabataean bowls on Thursday.

Mr. D'Anna had bought the bowls in 1960 when he was visiting Petra with some of his friends. "Collecting works of art and pottery are a passion of mine," the 85-year-old architect told the Jordan Times.

Not knowing at the time that what he had purchased were two

authentic Nabataean bowls, Mr. D'Anna took them to Lebanon, where he had been working. There, his archaeologist friend Lancaster Harding, author of "The Antiquities of Jordan," saw the pieces.

"I didn't want him to laugh at me for buying these imitations, but I just told him that they looked so original that I had to buy them," Mr. D'Anna recalled with a laugh. Shaking his head of thick white hair, he remembered how he was amazed when his friend confirmed the authenticity of the Nabataean bowls.

Since then, Mr. D'Anna's dream was to return the Nabataean bowls to Petra and donate them to a

museum there. "But there was no museum in Petra at the time, so I kept them."

A museum offered to buy the bowls and Mr. D'Anna estimated that they were worth around \$15,000. "But I felt that the years were creeping up on me and decided that I had to return the pieces to Petra," he said.

Mr. D'Anna resides in Italy and recently had the chance to meet with Mr. Biltaji there. Upon making it known that he wanted to return the bowls to Petra, Mr. D'Anna was invited by the minister to come to Jordan and return the bowls in person.

At the handing over ceremony,

Mr. Biltaji commended Mr. D'Anna for his initiative and described it as a lesson to be learnt from. He also pointed out the importance of protecting national artefacts and fighting against the act of trading in them, which he described as an offence to the nation.

Ghazi Bishefi, director of the Department of Antiquities, said the two Nabataean bowls date to 100 B.C. and are very valuable and rare.

This event coincides with a national campaign led by the Ministry of Tourism and the Department of Antiquities for the protection, maintenance and return of Jordanian artefacts.



Danish Social Democratic Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen gestures at the Danish parliament building surrounded by press after the results of the EU referendum. The Danes, in their fifth EU referendum since they voted in 1972 to join the then European Economic Community from 1973, came out 55.1 per cent in favour of the Amsterdam Treaty and 44.9 per cent against (Reuters photo)

Danish PM under pressure to placate large anti-EU electorate

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen's government breathed easier Thursday after a majority of Danes approved the Amsterdam Treaty, but it now faces the difficult task of placating the large 44.9 per cent minority which voted no.

Danish eurosceptics have expressed a fear of loss of sovereignty, unwilling to relinquish power to a European Union seen as overly bureaucratic and distant from the realities of Danish concerns.

While the rest of Europe hailed the approval of the treaty that paves the way for the EU's eastern expansion, Danish political analysts unanimously predicted that EU scepticism would continue to characterise Denmark's Euro-politics in the future — as for much of the country's 25 years as a member of the EU.

But more than ever, Mr. Rasmussen and the yes side "are going to be obliged to heed the signals from the numerous no-voters, the many hesitant yes-voters and the campaign promises to put the brakes on more Union," Danish daily Politiken wrote.

While saying that "Denmark is on track and will pursue its path in the EU," Mr. Rasmussen also acknowledged the EU opponents, defeated by the 55.1 per cent who said "yes" in a vote more about the country's stance towards EU membership than the details of the Amsterdam Treaty.

"I perceive Danes' signal

as a call for the tempo (of European integration) to now be reduced, not to throw out the big union. But I also perceive it as a clear yes to the values in the Amsterdam Treaty," he said.

The treaty is designed to reform EU institutions ahead of the body's future eastern expansion, with greater cooperation on crime, unemployment, environmental, refugee and asylum issues and foreign and security policy.

"If the EU train begins to roll too quickly, Denmark reserves the right to say stop," Mr. Rasmussen said, noting that Copenhagen would keep their concerns in mind in any future talks with the EU.

Eurosceptics — the left and right wings and several opposition groups — plan to make sure he sticks to that promise.

"Rasmussen has put a lot of emphasis on the fact that the EU is no longer going to go so fast, that there will not be more union. We intend to hold him to that," the leader of the Socialist People's Party Holger Nielsen said.

One strong issue of contention is the disappearance of borders, a result of the EU Schengen accords on free circulation which Denmark ratified in 1997.

Opponents fear this will open the floodgates for illegal immigration, organised crime and drug trafficking.

The Danish People's Party has already called for a new referendum on the issue, but the prime minis-

ter flatly rejected the idea, calling for a "pause" in the referendum procedure.

Thursday's vote was Denmark's fifth on an EU issue since the country voted to join the body in 1972, and its fourth since 1986.

The yes vote is seen as a huge personal victory for Mr. Rasmussen, who put his political prestige on the line to ensure a yes vote.

He attended more than 50 rallies in the last weeks of the campaign, visited schools and cafés, and distributed roses to undecided voters on Copenhagen's Stroegest pedestrian street.

Mr. Rasmussen must still convince his fellow Social Democrats: some 43 per cent of whom voted to reject the treaty.

According to political analyst Johannes Andersen from Aalborg University, opposition to the EU has changed character in recent years.

"In preceding referendums, primarily people with higher education and intellectuals voted no, as well as the old Social Democratic workers, while this time a reverse trend was noted," he said.

Meanwhile, Europe and the financial markets reacted positively to the vote.

The Danish central bank on Friday cut its discount and repo rates by a quarter of a point to 3.75 per cent, and the repo and deposit rates by 0.25 points to 4.0 per cent, as uncertainty over Denmark's future in the EU lifted.

Manager convicted in online porn case

FRANKFURT (R) — A Bavarian court convicted a former Compuserve manager Thursday of spreading pornography over the Internet, surprising some industry specialists.

The Munich district court, ignoring a change of heart by the state prosecutor, convicted the former head of the German division of the online service of distributing child pornography and other illegal material over the Internet.

"Even on the Internet, there can be no law-free zones," the court said, handing down a two-year suspended sentence to Felix Somm, 34. "The accused is not a victim. He abused the medium."

But Mr. Somm's attorney, Hans-Werner Moritz, contended the court erred in its ruling and said he planned to appeal.

"The court didn't take into account the statements of experts, didn't take into account the multimedia law," he told Reuters. "Certainly the fight will go

on."

Mr. Moritz said it could take six to 10 weeks to decide whether to appeal the decision to the Bavarian state court or to another German Appeals Court.

While the ruling puzzled Internet and legal experts, politicians raised concern over the medium's future in Germany.

The German government said it would study the court's decision carefully. "The development of the Internet in Germany must not be held back. This is about the jobs of the future," Technology Minister Juergen Ruefferts said in a statement.

The court convicted Mr. Somm after prosecutors changed their original position and said under Germany's new multimedia law he should not be liable for banned materials on the Internet.

Joerg Tauss, a member of parliament from the Social Democrats, said the court was ignorant about the Internet and called the

decision "a catastrophe" for cyberspace in Germany.

Mr. Moritz said the case had hurt Somm's new venture. Mr. Somm left Compuserve, which is owned by America Online Inc, last July and has set up his own electronic commerce consulting firm.

"There have been a lot of contracts that he didn't get because partners don't want to have anything to do with child pornography, even though Mr. Somm didn't have anything to do with it at all," he said.

The court found Mr. Somm guilty of complicity in 13 cases of spreading banned pornography on the worldwide computer network. It agreed with the prosecutor's original position that Mr. Somm was guilty because Mr. Somm, as Compuserve chief in Germany, provided Internet services that made the materials accessible.

Mr. Moritz said this runs counter to the federal multimedia law parliament passed last August.

The information and

communications law says that access providers are not generally held liable for material on the Internet. They are, however, required to take reasonable measures to block access to banned material.

"The court completely overlooked the law," he said. Adding that prosecutors made a move for acquittal based on the powers of the multimedia law. "It's completely out of the ordinary."

Mr. Kossel said the decision could be overturned since the Munich court sits in the capital of Bavaria, widely seen as the most conservative of Germany's 16 regional states and one that has taken an aggressive approach to policing the Internet.

Bavarian police have a special unit that trawls the Internet for pornography involving children or violence and Nazi literature, which is also banned in Germany.

Mr. Tauss said the court ignored defence testimony from experts on the law

and the Internet.

The defence claimed Mr. Somm notified authorities about the illegal materials and helped them in their investigation.

Ulrich Sieber, a professor of information law at Wuerzburg University said in a statement the charges against Mr. Somm conflicted with the multimedia law and could damage the development of the Internet in Germany.

Mr. Kossel also voiced concerns about the decision's implications.

"If it stands, it will strongly slow down the development of Internet technology in Germany and use of the Internet for business," he told Reuters, adding that small Internet providers would likely face higher costs to block materials on the Internet and might pull out of Germany.

Larger companies would have to weigh the risk of further lawsuits and the cost of blocking material located on computers in computers in other countries.

French magistrate targets official wiretapper

PARIS (R) — A man who headed France's official wiretap unit has been placed under investigation in connection with illegal eavesdropping carried out on orders of the late President Francois Mitterrand's office, judicial sources said Thursday.

Army Brigadier General Pierre Charroy, 63, was ordered placed under investigation for complicity in invasion of privacy in his capacity as head of the discreetly named Interministerial Control Group (GIC) under Mitterrand, the sources said.

The GIC is officially entrusted with carrying out wiretaps on the orders of magistrates in cases of espionage or serious crimes. The body is so shrouded with secrecy that it is not known if Brig. Gen. Charroy still heads it.

Former Mitterrand aides acknowledged last year that the late president, who ruled from 1981-1995, had ordered security officers attached to his office to carry out illegal wiretaps on

the telephone lines of lawyers, journalists, politicians and at least one movie actress.

The justice sources said Magistrate Jean-Paul Vallat suspected Brig. Gen. Charroy of having aided the presidential wiretappers who acted without the permission of magistrates, making their actions illegal.

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin pledged in last year's general election campaign to end an era of "monarchical secrecy" if he came to power and to lift the lid on cases like possible illegal wiretapping under Mitterrand, with whom Mr. Jospin was on poor terms.

Mr. Jospin has since been accused of dragging his feet on the promise since he became prime minister and Judge Vallat has written to ask for his help in his probes.

Some 15 former Mitterrand aides are under investigation and could face possible trial in the case.

Mitterrand died in 1996, seven months after leaving office.

NATO and Ukraine deepen military ties

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — NATO and Ukraine agreed Friday to deepen their military ties ahead of next year's expansion of the alliance up to the former Soviet republic's borders.

After talks with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk, NATO Secretary General Javier Solana announced plans to station a permanent liaison officer in Kiev to boost cooperation between allied and Ukrainian armed forces.

The officer's main task will be to help Ukraine draw up a programme of joint military exercises with NATO under the alliance's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme of military cooperation with Europe's former Communist or neutral states.

NATO already has an information office in Kiev and is helping Ukraine to reform its armed forces through a joint working group launched in February.

Mr. Tarasyuk hailed the accord on the liaison office as a "very impor-

tant achievement" that would contribute to growing confidence between the former adversaries and Ukraine's "integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures."

Ukraine is the first of the 28 countries in the PfP to which NATO has appointed a liaison officer.

Although the country's military weight has been reduced by its decision to give up its Soviet-era nuclear weapons, it remains strategically important because of its location between Russia and the former Warsaw Pact countries that are due to be brought under NATO's security umbrella.

Ukraine has common borders with Hungary and Poland, who, along with the Czech Republic, are to become full NATO members next April.

President Leonid Kuchma said last week that a move by Ukraine to seek NATO membership was "not on the agenda."

Mbeki says reconciliation in South Africa a mere mirage

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — South Africa remained a country of two nations four years after attaining democracy, with its goals of nation building and reconciliations "a mere mirage," Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said Friday.

In a hard-hitting speech to Parliament, Mr. Mbeki said one of these nations was "white, relatively prosperous, regardless of gender or geographic dispersal."

"It has ready access to a developed economic, physical, educational, communication and other infrastructure."

The second and larger nation of South Africa, he added, "is black and poor, with the worst affected being women in rural areas, the black rural population in general and the disabled."

"This nation lives under conditions of grossly underdeveloped infrastructure."

Hopes that the two nations would emerge from their past of colonial and apartheid white minority rule had not been realised after the advent of democracy in 1994, Mr. Mbeki said.

White South Africans' reluctance to share their

wealth with the black majority was producing mounting rage among "millions of people," he added.

Mr. Mbeki, who is almost certain to succeed President Nelson Mandela after elections next year, hit out at political parties for not doing enough to promote reconciliation, and at the estimated 30 per cent of the country's corporations who are dodging tax.

He held up the example of Germany, where citizens of the former West Germany pay an annual 7.5 per cent income tax surcharge to help uplift their East German compatriots.

A one-off "solidarity tax" imposed on white South Africans in 1995 was "accompanied by much grumbling from some sectors of our society," Mr. Mbeki said.

"Unlike the German people, we have not made the extra effort to generate the material resources we have to invest to change the condition of the black poor," he said.

At one extreme, some citizens, including members of the security forces, "are prepared to go to any length to

oppose the democratic order, including the assassination of leaders and destabilisation by all means."

At the other extreme, however, "significant numbers... have demonstrated a real commitment to the translation of the vision of national unity and reconciliation into reality."

"(But) much of what is happening in our country, which pushes us away from achieving this goal, is producing rage among millions of our people. I am convinced that we are faced with the danger of a mounting rage to which we must respond seriously."

Opposition leader Martinus van Schalkwyk, of the conservative National Party (NP), also warned of mounting rage — among whites feeling the sharp end of the government's affirmative action policies.

"There is a rage of people who feel they are being sidelined, that there is a political agenda against their language, schools," Mr. van Schalkwyk said. "There is a rage when people feel their skin colour counts against them when it comes to job applications and bursaries."

Yeltsin urges media to toe government line

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin told Russian media chiefs Thursday they were free to say what they liked — provided they toe the government line.

"Freedom remains as before, but we have a right to ask you to promote state policy," Mr. Yeltsin said in televised remarks to chiefs of three television channels, which broadcast across the vast Russian Federation.

Annoyed by media coverage of recent protests by unpaid miners, Mr. Yeltsin had summoned Ksenia Ponomareva of Ort Public Television, where the government has a majority stake, Mikhail Shvidkoi of the state-run RTR Channel and Oleg Dobrodeyev of commercial NTV television, to the Kremlin.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Shvidkoi as saying the president had urged them to report events in such a way that "national interests and common sense" prevailed.

"Of course the president has his own view of this problem but he showed complete respect for the position of the media," Mr. Shvidkoi said. "Today freedom of speech depends on stability in Russia."

Monday Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky criticised television coverage of last week's blockade by coal miners of key railway lines in protest over

unpaid wages, saying it "went beyond reasonable limits".

Yastrzhembsky did not explain his criticism. But reports on the miners' protests, giving prominence to criticism of Mr. Yeltsin and his government, led news bulletins which showed placards calling for Mr. Yeltsin's dismissal.

The support of media barons was vital to Yeltsin's reelection in 1996 and he is wary the media might turn against him in the run-up to the next presidential poll in 2000.

Thursday Mr. Yeltsin reassured the television bosses about plans to turn RTR and its network of state-owned local television stations into a powerful media holding.

"I signed a decree creating a state holding company comprising electronic media but it seems that for some reason you took fright at this," TASS quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling them.

"I want to say that we are not planning to introduce anything special here... such a general state structure in no way means that we are taking control of television."

One of Russia's most powerful media barons begged to differ.

"I feel sorry for the journalists who will work there," Vladimir Gusinsky, head of the most group which owns NTV, was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency.

Speaking at a European media forum in Moscow, he

alleged that the reporters in the new holding company would not be able to speak the truth about Russia's breakaway Chechnya region, miners' strikes or corrupt officials.

Earlier this week Mr. Yeltsin hailed the giant strides towards independence made by the media since Soviet Communism fell in 1991 and praised reporters' courage and defence of human rights.

But he also rapped Russia's powerful financial groups with vast newspaper and television empires, accusing them of censoring news for their own ends.

Gusinsky hit back Thursday, telling the state to mind its own business. "The mass media, whoever they belong to, should answer for their work only to their readers, listeners and viewers, and the state should obey its own laws," he said.

The most powerful media magnates apart from Gusinsky include Uneximbank chief Vladimir Potanin, businessman-turned-politician Boris Berezovsky, Alexander Smolensky of SBS-Agrobank and Menatep head Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

The Kremlin and government have their own newspapers and control the state Channel RTR. The government also has a majority stake in ORT public television, but its editorial policies are often at odds with the cabinet line.

Canada, Cuba discover ancient Taino house underwater

TORONTO (R) — A joint Canadian-Cuban archaeological team has discovered the first almost perfectly preserved house of the ancient Taino people at an underwater site in Cuba, a scientist from the Royal Ontario Museum said Thursday.

The Taino were an agricultural people who inhabited most of the Caribbean islands around 500 A.D. Their occupation of Cuba and other islands continued until the Spanish arrived. The Taino were eventually decimated by European diseases and slaughtered by the Spanish.

"This is a mind-boggling discovery," said David Pendergast, vice-president for collections of the Toronto Museum. "We discovered a staggering amount of information in only two weeks. A similar discovery for the Mayas would answer all the questions we still have about them."

Until now, Mr. Pendergast said, the Tainos were known only from their portable objects, such as tools and dishes.

The discovery of this house in Los Buchillonos, Cuba places those objects in a more concrete context.

Why the house — which was discovered underwater by a pair of fishermen — is so well preserved remains somewhat of a mystery.

Mr. Pendergast believes that the clay in which it was discovered has some preservation properties and he noted that the clay has a local reputation for therapeutic properties.

The house may only have been under water for 50 years or so, but it was not discovered earlier as archaeological digs were mainly conducted on higher ground, away from the water.

Contacts between the Tainos and their mighty neighbours, the Mayas,

seem to have been quite limited. Mr. Pendergast once found a Taino vomit-spout — the Tainos practised ritual vomiting — on a Mayan site, in Belize.

"This site doesn't look like a Mayan site," said Mr. Pendergast. "The Tainos had no permanent structures and the Mayans were literate, not the Tainos."

Still, the discovery will come as a boon to those in Cuba trying to revive their sense of Taino identity. Many Tainos were exterminated during early contact with the Europeans and their culture barely survived.

Mr. Pendergast plans to return to the site next year and apply a more high-tech approach — sandbags were used this time — to the excavation.

"It's an honour to be involved," he says. "We saw something that had never been seen by Western eyes before, and not by human eyes in hundreds of years."

Bored Gulf teenagers turn to drugs

By John Lancaster
in Kuwait

EVERY NIGHT, Ibrahim, a third-year math student at the national university here, retreats to the privacy of his room and kneels on the floor, facing towards the Muslim Holy City of Mecca. Murmuring verses from the Koran, he prostrates himself before Allah and begs forgiveness for what he is about to do. Then he prepares a 100-millilitre dose of heroin and injects it into one of his veins.

"I pray and then I take heroin," said Ibrahim, 21, puffing nervously on a Marlboro in a social club run by the local chapter of Narcotics Anonymous, where he has come to seek help for his \$70-a-day habit. "I don't know what's happening in this world. I lost my family, my friends, everything."

The diminutive, rail-thin addict is a casualty of an alarming surge in drug use among the citizens of this prosperous country.

In the seven years since allied forces rid the country of Iraqi troops in the Persian Gulf war, authorities have reported sharp increases in drug overdoses and drug-related arrests. The amount of heroin seized has skyrocketed. Schools are said to be afflicted by substance abuse, including the sniffing of glue and solvents.

In the view of foreign and Kuwaiti experts, Kuwait's drug problem stems in part from rapid Westernisation that has eroded traditional Islamic values in this oil-rich country of 1.6 million, more than half of whom are expatriate workers and their families. Other factors include boredom, affluence and proximity to Iran, a major transit point for heroin produced in Afghanistan and shipped here on motorised wooden dhows.

"It's a market ripe for the picking," a Western diplomat said. "You have a young population (with money), and you have very little in the way of social activities to keep people interested."

After a period of denial, the country's political leaders have begun to face the problem. The emir, Sheikh Jaber Ahmad Sabah,

ordered the formation of a drug prevention committee last year. State television recently began airing specials featuring cautionary tales by recovering addicts.

"The country has moved very fast to a Western way of life, and this is one of the effects," Ahmad Bakr, a conservative Muslim and a member of the health committee in the parliament, said in an interview. "Almost everything that happens in the West, Kuwaitis imitate."

Throughout the conservative Arab states of the Gulf, sudden oil wealth has caused wrenching social change, including an influx of drugs. The United Arab Emirates recently established a central drug treatment facility. Narcotics Anonymous operates in Bahrain and even Saudi Arabia, a country of strict Islamic laws where convicted drug dealers are decapitated in Riyadh's central square.

"Materialism has become everything in our lives now, whether in Kuwait or America," said Abdul Hamid Belali, director of a Kuwaiti drug-treatment centre that relies heavily on the Koran. "Every wealthy country is facing this problem."

The amount of heroin seized in Kuwait jumped from seven pounds in 1994 to 106 pounds in 1996, the most recent year for which figures are available, according to interior ministry statistics.

Drug overdoses killed 52 people last year, compared with 22 the year before, according to statistics gathered by Belali, who estimated 15,000 of the country's 660,000 citizens use illegal drugs. Drug-related arrests have surged from 375 in 1992 to 841 in 1996, of which a majority — 496 — were Kuwaiti citizens, government figures show.

Many Kuwaitis see the 1990 Iraqi invasion as a turning point. It set much of the population fleeing to North America and Europe and, after liberation, exposed the country to even greater outside influence.

Another factor, according to experts, is boredom. Teenagers, are tantalised by Western culture

absorbed from satellite television or during trips abroad. Yet diversions are few in a conservative Islamic society that frowns on mingling between the sexes and restricts amusement parks to families.

"A gramme of heroin (costs \$328), and for Kuwaitis, this is nothing," said Jaher, 31, a former fire inspector who recently finished a 22-month jail term after he was caught with a pound of hashish. "I know of girls 13 or 14 years old who are (using) heroin."

As elsewhere, drug abuse in Kuwait cuts across class and educational lines. The local chapter of Narcotics Anonymous is directed by Abu Abdullah, 40, a round-faced stockbroker who drives a maroon Lexus and appears to have a mobile phone permanently grafted to his ear. Another participant is Nawaf, 26, an army sergeant who said he began using heroin soon after his release from an Iraqi POW camp in 1991.

After futile attempts at treatment in Saudi Arabia and Switzerland, Nawaf joined Narcotics Anonymous and has not used drugs since beginning its 12-step recovery programme in November, he said.

Drug use is heavily stigmatised in Kuwait, and families are reluctant to seek help for an afflicted member. Kuwait has no full-time counselling centre, and its main drug rehabilitation unit is housed in a converted World War II army barracks.

The parliament recently approved stiffer drug penalties, including death for traffickers, although the emir has yet to sign off on any executions.

According to officials, the emir's drug committee is laying plans for a major anti-drug campaign, including television programmes, advertisements and educational materials.

"The government is concerned, but as in other countries, it works in slow motion," said an interior ministry official who asked to remain nameless. "It's a matter of time."

— The Washington Post

Pakistan vows to match any Indian threat with 'vengeance'

(Continued from page 1)

cleric extolled worshippers to "thank God for Pakistan's successful nuclear tests."

After the tests were announced people danced in the streets, hugged each other and offered sweets — a traditional gesture of celebration.

A nuclear weapons balance between India and Pakistan could be a formula for stability on the volatile South Asian subcontinent, said Mr. Ayub. But, he worried that a beligerent India would easily upset the balance.

Pakistan's nuclear tests were denounced Friday by nations on the grounds that the tests escalated the arms race and undermined the stability of South Asia.

Several countries also imposed sanctions against Pakistan to protest its five nuclear test explosions Thursday. Many of the measures were similar to those announced against India after it exploded the same number of nuclear devices two weeks ago.

Britain said it is withdrawing its ambassador to Pakistan immediately and will scale down military cooperation with Islamabad.

"Our objective is clear: to impress on India and Pakistan the urgent need to adhere to the global non-proliferation regime, to conduct no further tests, and to begin a dialogue which will go to the heart of the differences between them," Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said in a statement.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl condemned the Pakistani test blasts but said he opposes economic sanctions against Pakistan and India because experience shows they do not work.

He urged international diplomatic pressure on India and Pakistan.

Condemnation of the tests was strong in Asia. In Tokyo, Prime Minister

Ryutaro Hashimoto said Japan will cut off new economic aid and loans to Pakistan, the same penalties Tokyo imposed on India.

"The nuclear tests do not just involve Pakistan but fly directly in the face of the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, deepen the crisis, and clearly threaten stability in the region," Mr. Hashimoto said in a nationally televised speech in Japan.

Earlier this month, Japan suspended aid to India worth about \$300 million and froze fresh loans to the country. Pakistan will lose about the same amount.

Takashi Hiraoka, mayor of Hiroshima, the first city ever attacked by an atomic weapon, said of Pakistan on Thursday: "This was a rash act that has ignored the demands of international society seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons."

In Iran, whose eastern border is near Pakistan's test site, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi said, "The current nuclear arms race is a serious danger." Iran also blamed existing nuclear powers for not working harder to eliminate nuclear weapons.

"This is a race which has been caused by the weakness of the five nuclear powers' political will because they have failed to agree to the international community's wish for complete nuclear disarmament," Philippines President Fidel Ramos criticised Pakistan for "diverting scarce resources to nuclear weapons and missile development programmes from the imperatives of economic and social development." Praise for Pakistan's action was rare but not unheard.

Jordan's Islamic Action Front hailed the Pakistani bomb as the "achievement of the century" which "liberates the Muslims from subordination and allows them to choose their own strategic future."

Still, most of the reaction Friday echoed the condemnation levelled at Pakistan on Thursday by leaders from Beijing to Washington.

The Indian prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said Pakistan's five test blasts vindicated India's decision to explode similar devices. He urged India's Parliament to present a unified front to Pakistan's "challenge." But Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said his country had little choice but to follow India's example after the international community failed to punish New Delhi for its tests.

U.S. President Bill Clinton condemned Pakistan's decision to join the world's nuclear club as a lost opportunity. "We have no choice but to impose sanctions," he said.

"It is now more urgent than it was yesterday that both Pakistan and India renounce further tests, sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and take decisive steps to reduce tensions in South Asia and reverse the dangerous arms race," Mr. Clinton said.

The United States cut off all non-humanitarian aid to India after its tests and is trying to block all lending to India by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international financial agencies. Pakistan's economy is less robust than India's, and similar sanctions would be damaging.

China, like the United States a nuclear power, expressed regret over Pakistan's tests and urged it and India to renounce their nuclear weapons programmes to stop tensions from escalating.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan deplored Pakistan's tests and echoed the call by many for both the Indians and Pakistanis to sign the test ban treaty and pledge not to use nuclear weapons against one another.

Pakistan's foreign minister

told the Associated Press that India's "almost daily threats" against Pakistan were rapidly pushing the subcontinent toward "a more or less undeclared war situation... a dangerous situation," he said.

Within hours of testing its nuclear devices, Pakistan's President declared a state of emergency, citing threats of "external aggression," although Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz says economic worries also were a factor.

Mr. Ayub said Pakistan had "credible evidence" that India was preparing to bomb its nuclear installations — three of which are within a 50-kilometre radius of the federal capital of Islamabad.

Pakistan scrambled its air force, Mr. Ayub contacted ambassadors representing the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and India's ambassador to Pakistan.

"I didn't sleep all night... we were here waiting," he said. By Friday Mr. Ayub said the threat from India had been reduced, because India had lost the element of surprise.

Messrs. Ayub, Aziz and Sharif said sanctions likely to follow the testing will mean hard times, but people will survive.

Previously when Pakistan has been sanctioned it has prospered, said Mr. Ayub.

He said Pakistan moved forward on its nuclear weapons programmes during the past nine years — while under complete sanctions by the United States, imposed in 1990 because Washington was upset by Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

But Mr. Ayub said Pakistan did wait before testing to see what protection against a threatening neighbour it could expect to receive from the Western world and the strength of the outrage against Indian testing.

Reducing UNRWA services is 'recipe for disaster'

(Continued from page 1)

The Prince complained that UNRWA had to undertake several austerity measures and cost-reduction moves in the last few years due to shortage of funds.

Last week, the Prince inaugurated an UNRWA facility in the Jordan Valley town of Waqas, built through a \$450,000 contribution from the U.S. government to serve 10,000 refugees in areas of health and social services.

He hailed the Waqas facility saying it was the result of cooperation between the U.S., Jordan and UNRWA.

"This, I believe, is the purpose of our meeting here today — to work together to shoulder our joint responsibilities towards refugees."

Prince Hassan lauded a 10 per cent increase in U.S. contribution to UNRWA, urging other donor nations to increase their contributions. He also invited others to "join its donors club."

At the meeting, attended by representatives of 28 donor nations, the U.S. announced an additional \$7 million, bringing their contribution to a record level of \$77 million — the largest by any single state.

Despite limited resources, Jordan's annual \$250 per capita expenditure on refugees in the Kingdom exceeded UNRWA's annual \$56 per capita spent on Jordan-based refugees, he said.

Annan set to okay new Iraqi oil-for-food plan — U.N. official

(Continued from page 1)

The next step is for the Security Council to approve \$300 million in spare parts for Iraq's dilapidated oil industry. But members disagree on how to do this and no action is expected until next week.

Proposals from Britain, Portugal and Sweden, backed by the United States, would approve the \$300 million in equipment

but insist the council's sanctions committee on Iraq has to sign off on each item as the parts are purchased.

The committee includes all 15 council members and allows any one of them to block a request. But France drew up an alternative document that would have the council approve immediately a list of spare parts as proposed by oil experts engaged by the United Nations.

which represents the world community's commitment to the humanitarian needs of refugees, must continue its work until a final Arab-Israeli settlement is achieved.

"We have done everything within our means to improve the quality of life in refugee camps, and to meet their needs for health services, educational services, and job opportunities," Prince Hassan said.

However, he criticised UNRWA to stop helping refugee camps in Jordan on grounds life there was much better than in similar camps dotting other Arab countries.

"This I find unacceptable. The new notion that host countries should single-handedly meet the humanitarian needs of refugees is also unrealistic. It is simply beyond our means."

Others should share the enormous burden," he said. "Through UNRWA, we must continue to address the underlying security concern of despair, poverty and unemployment."

He said: "Efforts to address the humanitarian dimension does not mean compromising the political rights and aspirations of refugees."

"We differentiate between integration and assimilation. The cause of refugees is better served if they are integrated into the society in which they live," he said.

The prince said UNRWA, following the crime, one of the four suspects, Ahmad Muhammad, left the country, the police official said.

Several days later, the suspects decided to kill Hajjaji "due to differences between him and Jaghabeen," Lt. Gen. Marzouk said.

The police official noted that the killing of the three Jordanians in Shmeisani was because of "personal differences" between Sa'ad and Jaghabeen.

On April 8, Jaghabeen and Ensour arrived at Sa'ad's clinic. "Unfortunately Naddah and his son arrived at the clinic and were pulled inside and killed along with Sa'ad," he added.

The police official declined to reveal what "personal differences" were behind the killing of the psychiatrist.

He said that many patients

and offered technical expertise to assist it.

Ibrahim Badran, head of the Palestinian Affairs Department running the day-to-day affairs of Palestinian refugee camps, called for a stable and sustainable funding mechanism that would include a greater number of countries contributing to UNRWA's annual budget.

As'ad Abdul Rahman, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee in charge of refugees and displaced persons, said the demise of UNRWA will "certainly deal a blow to the refugee issue and to the Palestinian cause as well."

"Accordingly, it will leave a negative impact on the political stability of the whole region," he added.

"The PLO and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) consider refugees to be the responsibility of the international community which must continue to support UNRWA, from both political and humanitarian angles," Dr. Abdul Rahman said.

Jordan plans to ask for extradition of suspect in Shmeisani, Rabia murders

(Continued from page 1)

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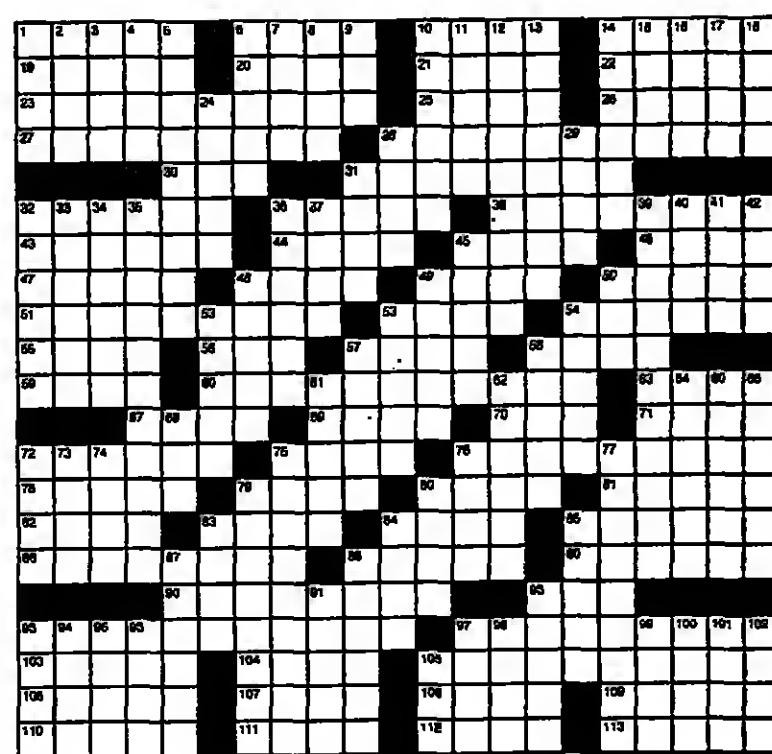
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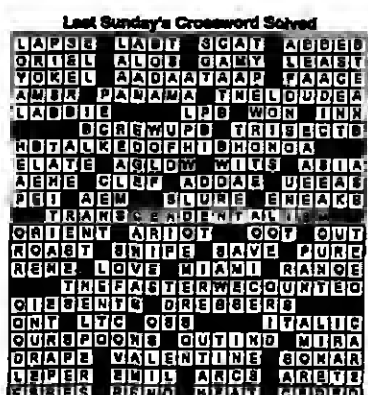
The Saturday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Insulated wires
 - Partisan of "Cheers"
 - Gush forth
 - Assassinated Egyptian
 - Native Alaskan
 - Work for
 - Soft drink
 - Wonderland girl
 - Barber's flower?
 - A Baldwin brother
 - Repairs
 - Doomed venture
 - Clinton's fruit?
 - Set of parts to be assembled
 - Of resistance to motion
 - Edge of a printed page
 - Unit now
 - Roadfiners
 - Potential oaks
 - Writer Morrison
 - Get up
 - Alimony
 - Change sale prices
 - Pueblo people
 - Gardie
 - Funeral hymn
 - Boat's triangular power source
 - Slightly spoiled
 - Prohibited with authority
 - Bearable and lovable
 - Hazy sign
 - Helper
 - Corn concoction
 - Pub preferences
 - Pete's flower?

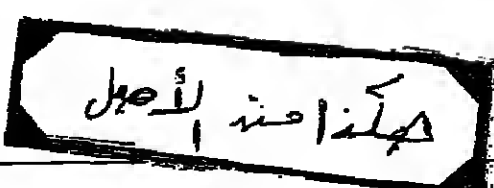


- DOWN**
- Olympian Lewis
 - Imitation butter
 - Checkers side
 - Fine, dry particles of matter
 - Hooley
 - Second edit
 - Scotlar's laughs
 - New York canal
 - Furthermore
 - Mountaineer
 - beard
 - Shock
 - Goodie
 - Taste test
 - Toward shelter
 - Address Mermi
 - Assate rockers
 - John
 - Interviewer/planet
 - Water falls?
 - Birth
 - In one's right mind
 - Former Spanish toehold in Africa
 - Address Mason
 - Solvent ingredient
 - Turn around
 - Asa's tableware?
 - Long searves
 - Sorry 'bout that

- Pacifist movie of 1975
- the Tumble
- Quaker pronoun
- Before, in poetry
- Concoct
- Photo faces, often
- "Moonstruck" star
- Of an assassinated Roman dictator
- Crisis in totem pole, e.g.
- Natural satellite
- Pea holders
- Insect
- Highest point
- Bowler's targets
- Satisfactory slang
- Cry-baby
- One at the back
- "Two Women" star
- Sophia
- "Gunsmoke" star
- Selfless individual
- Actor Akela
- Berta's fruit?
- Showing national pride
- Dressing choice
- Max Fitzgerald
- Adrian's mental?
- Mrs. Ralph
- Kramden
- Up to something
- Reluctant scuttler
- Old-time actor
- Ernest
- Polite, slang
- 111 Carryall
- Bristles on grasses
- Of an ecological cycle



- Last Sunday's Crossword Solved**
- Alternative to a Pepsi
 - Scaremongers
 - Abuse
 - Separate
 - Game played on horseback
 - San — California
 - Child in Scotland
 - Pulverizer
 - Blind, as with cord
 - In the dark
 - Staircase
 - Urry kid
 - Followers of tra
 - Module
 - homo (Behold the man)
 - Front of a ship
 - Long, long time
 - Fairy-tale monster
 - Junet
 - Lowest parts of small intestines
 - 440 in letters
 - College student's figure, abbr.



Rather than merely defining the obstacles in the path of progress

Crown Prince stresses finding solutions, taking practical steps to improve performance, productivity

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday presided over a meeting held at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to discuss financing the industrial sector.

The meeting was a follow-up to that which was held at the Ministry of Planning under the chairmanship of the Crown Prince and which focused on studies of the economic sectors and on reaching practical steps to improve economic performance.

These meetings reflect the interaction between the state's institutions and demonstrate the country's move from a stage of economic stability to economic growth, according to Prince Hassan.

At the meeting, which was attended by deputy prime minister and minister of information Abdullah Ensour and several cabinet ministers in addition to the CBJ governor, Ziyad Fariz, and representatives of the private sector, Prince Hassan stressed that emphasis should be put on practical steps to be adopted by the different economic sectors.

The studies which were prepared by a Ministry of Planning committee covered the textile, mining and the

pharmaceutical manufacturing industries but the Central Bank study covered the role of industrial financing and its contribution to development within the framework of a clear and integrated industrial strategy.

Prince Hassan emphasized the need to focus on finding solutions and on taking practical steps to improve the performance and productivity rather than merely defining the obstacles in the path of progress.

Emphasising the importance of the industrial sector in attaining economic development, Prince Hassan called



on Jordanian industries to benefit from the experiences of other countries, to undertake continuous training programmes for workers and to adopt research plans.

He highlighted the importance of communicating with the public and providing it with information about development in the economic sector.

The Crown Prince expressed hope that the outcome of these

meetings will have its positive impact on the country's policies concerning development and on the living standards of Jordanian citizens.

The CBJ study expressed appreciation of Jordan's success in the implementation of the economic restructuring programme as agreed on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but it pointed out that the results still fall short of achieving the national aspirations.

It noted that the country still faces obstacles impeding the market's performance and that human and other resources are not effectively utilised.

The study, which said that economic gains must be felt by the different sectors of the society, pointed out that the private sector has not responded fully to the economic restructuring programmes.

It said that the industrial sector, which is responsible for 25 per cent of the national economic growth and 17.2 per cent of the gross domestic product, is capable of contributing more towards economic development in Jordan.

The study called for the adoption of an industrial policy that caters to the social objectives taking into consideration factors connected with marketing and management.

It recommended that the role of the Industrial Development Bank be promoted and that more credits be available for small industries.

Air France pilots threaten chaos for World Cup

PARIS (AFP) — Air France pilots have threatened chaos for the World Cup soccer finals as the latest talks with management failed, with each accusing the other of intransigence.

"We're going to stop wasting time talking to management and prepare for a conflict," said Jean-Charles Corbet, the head of the main pilots' union, the SNPL. "There is no progress on the Air France side."

The meeting was required by law after the union earlier this week notified the government of its plans for a June 1-15 strike which could be extended, France hosts the soccer tournament from June 10 to July 12.

The Air France management regretted that the "SNPL again demonstrated its refusal to negotiate." No new meeting was scheduled between the two sides.

Air France, meanwhile, announced unexpectedly it would ground up to 90 per cent of its flights in an apparent bid to pile pressure on the government and on trade unions to settle the pay row.

Air France, the official World Cup airline, said

between 75 per cent and 90 per cent of flights would be cancelled from June 1 to 4 due to a strike call by six pilots' trade unions over proposed pay cuts.

The company would maintain 10 per cent of its long-haul flights and 25 per cent of its medium-haul flights from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport, north of Paris, and 17 per cent of short and medium-haul flights from the Orly airport south of the capital.

Three smaller pilots unions released a joint statement that also condemned the management's unwillingness to seek a compromise.

Air France this week pledged to get footballers to and from matches in the 10 cities playing host to World Cup Games whether or not there was a strike.

But with all eyes to focus on France as the four-yearly Cup gets under way, the government is keen to avoid the spotlight beaming in on strike action. Truckers this week reneged on protest threats but it remains to be seen whether railway drivers will hold off as the football fest kicks off.

IMF hails austerity package in Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) — The IMF praised Russia Friday for its new-found fiscal zeal, hinting it would reward an uncompromising austerity package with a vital \$670 million loan installment within weeks.

Hailing the tough fiscal measures announced Friday as the correct panacea for a struggling economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it would speed up approval of the loan tranche, likely to restore a measure of confidence to nervous markets.

"We will speed this process up so it should be possible to fix the date of (an IMF board) meeting within a few weeks and certainly before the end of June," top IMF official John Odling-Smee told reporters in Moscow.

"I expect the board to decide (on the tranche) on the day they have the meeting," Mr. Odling-Smee said. "If they decide yes as I expect, the money would become available within a couple of days."

The IMF tranche is seen as a vital step towards restoring confidence in Russia's financial system, creaking under the strain of an investor exodus, tumbling stock and bond markets and a vulnerable rou-

ble. "This is the news that we've been waiting for," said Rory MacFarquhar, an economist with the Russia-European Centre for Economic Policy.

"Presumably it means that the IMF is prepared to pinch to cut through some of its own bureaucracy and rally behind the government at a time of great need, and that's exactly what we're in at the moment," he added.

The government package detailed a series of tough steps, pledging to squeeze five billion roubles (\$810 million) out of tax delinquents in the next month alone, and to speed up privatisations to garner a further 15 billion roubles (\$2.43 billion) this year.

President Boris Yeltsin sacked the head of the tax service, Alexander Pochinov, replacing him with reformist Boris Fyodorov, and promised to pay close personal attention to financial developments, using his head-of-state contacts to solicit international support in times of trouble.

"It is at such critical times that the authorities are tested for strength, maturity and ability to act," Mr. Yeltsin said, reserving praise for his own government for weathering the

storm lashing Russia's financial system.

Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov said that the storm had now passed.

While the package appeared to have won over the IMF, markets were more cautious. Stocks which have lost 40 per cent this month alone shed a further 3.5 per cent on a downgrade of Russia's borrowing ratings by Moody's, while bond yields remained high.

The rouble, however, continued to draw confidence from the decision by the central bank on Wednesday to triple interest rates to 150 per cent, gaining a kopeck against the dollar to 6.138 on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange.

The government's inability to collect revenues has raised to panic levels concern over the hole in the budget, sending stocks and bonds into free fall and sowing concern among IMF officials about the government's ability to run a tight ship.

Last week, the government announced spending cuts of 42 billion roubles and new duties and import taxes which would raise revenues by 10 billion roubles this year to close the fiscal gap and meet IMF

requirements.

In response, the government announced an all out war on tax dodgers Friday, threatening to link oil companies' access to international pipelines to prompt tax payment from July 1.

Later Friday, the emergency tax commission gave a handful of companies two weeks to pay up or face bankruptcy proceedings.

The government pledged to push on with its privatisation programme for 1998 to boost the public purse, despite the flop earlier this week of the Rosneft oil holding company tender.

Mr. Yeltsin, meanwhile, signed a decree making it easier for tax police to impound property of chronic defaulters, having already warned Russia's super-rich Thursday to pay up or face criminal proceedings.

"The situation that has arisen has forced the government to resort to a significant correction in tax-budgetary policies, and the central bank in its credit-monetary policies," the government statement said.

"All this was done with the single aim of defending the stability of the Russian rouble and consequently of the economy as a whole," it emphasised.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1998

By Linda C. Black Tribune Media Services

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you're doing what requires physical stamina, such as yard work, or putting on a spare bedroom, you'll have a great day. And by the time darkness falls, you'll be ready for the other activity for which passionate fire signs are so famous. Save some energy for that.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a good day to entertain at home. You can't afford to travel, and you probably don't want to, anyway. Besides, people love to come over to your place. You throw a fabulous party because you always make them feel like family. They love to bring something, too.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good time for learning things physically, rather than intellectually. For example, have you ever thought about becoming a painter, carpenter or guitar player? If you start lessons now, it'll be easy to acquire the skills.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) This could be a good day to have a garage sale. You're a great wheeler-dealer, and you could be in luck. People will be in the mood to pay more, figuring they're getting higher quality for their money. You can accommodate that without any problem at all.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a great day for a party. If you know a bunch of performers, get them all together. Entertainers and athletes will be in absolutely spectacular form. Or how about team sports? Sandlot baseball? Tag football? Everybody wants to get involved, so let them!

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good weekend for cleaning things out — your closets, your attic, whatever needs tidying up. Do it now. It'll be relatively easy to make decisions about what to keep and what to let go. You'll feel so much better after it's done that it won't seem like much trouble at all.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) It's a good time for a party and for sports activities. It's also good for travel. You have luck in love as well, whatever you're doing doesn't cost much money. If you stick within those parameters, you could have an absolutely outrageous time this weekend.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A strong leader wants you to follow, and that could be best for now. You don't have quite enough strength to launch a good offensive. Besides, it will make you look gracious if you comply. It will also give the impression that you can be led. It's always useful for others to think that.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Today is excellent for travel, especially with an interesting person. Camping, hiking and hike riding are good ideas, or some other activity that gets you out into nature. A combination of intellectual and physical activity will be very refreshing.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Sometimes you're rather tight with money. Today, talk yourself into getting something nice. This could be a work-related item, which is no surprise. Just about everything Capricorns do is work-related; one way or another. If it's deductible, it's OK, right?

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This would be a great day to get married. If you already have it planned, congratulations! You probably had a good astrologer helping pick the date. Be careful with commitments. They'll last for a very long time, so choose things that will help you flourish.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you've been pondering a construction project this weekend, you couldn't have found a better time for it. Not only will you be thinking more clearly, so will everybody else. Gather a bunch of them together and do something awesome.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrus

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

- 1 Famous flidde
- 6 Ofullen aspect
- 10 Culture medium
- 14 Arty gathering place
- 15 Ohello's "friend"
- 16 Rustic way
- 17 Activity in 26A, slengly
- 20 Lawmaker; abor.
- 21 — the lins (poeys)
- 22 Young hooter
- 23 Papal name
- 24 Auction
- 26 Gambler's town
- 32 Gourmet mushroom
- 33 Part of milk
- 34 Promissory note, sort of
- 35 Oratorio melody
- 36 Hollow rock
- 38 Sprightly
- 39 Indian
- 40 Mend socks
- 41 "Dallas" name
- 42 Gambler's town
- 43 Mine products
- 47 All right
- 48 Eagles' home
- 51 Served a sizzler
- 52 Minis
- 55 Worker in 42A
- 59 Noble Italian family
- 60 Comic Johnson
- 61 Uncontrollable disorders
- 62 Direct with authority
- 63 Necklace component
- 64 Winter weather problem

DOWN

- 1 Serpents
- 2 Macho
- 3 Author Milne
- 4 Plaything
- 5 First
- 6 Pandect
- 7 Equine cuisine?
- 8 Phew!
- 9 Caviar base
- 10 Really wrong
- 11 English clink
- 12 Before, prot.
- 13 Take it easy
- 18 Part of speech
- 19 Substantial
- 23 Heartfelt request
- 24 Type of missile
- 25 Farmer's measure
- 26 Artery
- 27 Historic effort
- 28 Religious images
- 29 Give in
- 30 Water wheel
- 31 Burlap origin
- 32 Handle roughly
- 35 Kind of security
- 37 Historic periods
- 38 Gambling
- 40 Be or John
- 41 Clever escapees
- 43 Uttered
- 44 Notched an arrow
- 45 Barely made out
- 46 Biblical victim
- 49 Other
- 50 Pro —
- 51 Recorded proceedings
- 52 Healing plant
- 53 Fountain
- 54 Formerly, once
- 56 Boxing blow
- 57 Exist
- 58 Be under the weather

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YUINT

PAMCH

NAHDEL

YIKELL

Answers: YUINT, PAMCH, NAHDEL, YIKELL

Yesterday's Jumbles: TACKY, ICING, CROWSY, CALMAY

Answer: Often seen at a model home — WALK-INS

A review of new

Net profit gen

Investment Company

Jordan accounts for \$

provided by maj

REUTERS

The Business

Major Currencies & Cross R

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
US Dollar	1.000	1.936	0.693
DE Mark	0.5405	1.000	0.5405
SE Krona	1.0223	0.9127	0.9127
CH Franc	0.6747	1.000	0.6747
Yen	0.0073	0.0073	0.0073
Sw Franc	0.7566	1.000	0.7566
IL Lira	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
NL Guilder	0.4872	0.4872	0.4872
FR Franc	0.1667	0.1667	0.1667

Money Ex

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR
US Dollar	1.000	0.709	1.000
Jordan Dinar	1.4134	1.000	0.709
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	1.000
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8906	1.000
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.000
Kuwait Dinar	0.2680	0.1975	1.000
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.000
Lebanese 1000	0.56	0.4688	1.000
Egyptian	0.2529	0.2084	1.000

Energy

Oil	Last	Revised
Brent	14.64	14.70
WTI	14.74	14.82
Bonny	14.64	14.70
Dubai	12.44	12.44
UL Gas	146.00	146.00

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.728	0.718
GB Sterling	1.1555	1.1613
DE Mark	0.3976	0.3996
CH Franc	0.4802	0.4828
FR Franc	0.1156	0.1162
JP Yen	0.5158	0.5164
NL Guilder	0.3526	0.3544
IL Lira	0.4524	0.4584

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

Main Equi

Bourse	Index	Value
New York	DOW JONES	8991
London	FT-SE 100	1848
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	19970
Paris	CAC 40	4041
Frankfurt	DAX	3850

JORDAN

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Net profit generated by General Investment Company drops by 11.7% to JD1.8m

THE GENERAL Investment Company (GIC) posted a JD1.8 million net profit last year but the amount was 11.7 per cent less than the profit generated in 1996. However, the board of directors proposed distributing JD0.7 million in dividends to shareholders who recommended amending the 10 per cent rate offered by the board to 11 per cent. Accordingly, the tax on the dividends to be distributed will be taken from the retained earnings.

The company distributed dividends at a rate of 15 per cent in 1996 when its capital was JD3.4 million. On Feb. 24, 1997, the GIC capitalised JD1.95 million of voluntary reserves and JD1.65 million of retained earnings to raise its capital to JD7 million.

Board Chairman Farhan Abu Jaber told the general assembly that GIC registered around JD6.3 million in total sales of

which JD6.06 million were in the local market. Despite the decline in local sales by 2.4 per cent from the level recorded in 1996, Mr. Abu Jaber indicated that the company exported a "good" volume of Amstel beer to Palestinian self-rule areas and "moderate quantities of alcohol-free malt to Libyan markets. He emphasised that the company seeks to export larger quantities during 1998 due to Amstel's well-known international brand.

According to the annual report, GIC paid a total of JD2.12 million in sales tax to the Ministry of Finance. The company's total assets amounted to JD10.1 million of which JD3.73 million were current assets and the remaining JD6.35 million were fixed assets. Other assets in the form of investments in affiliated firms amounted to JD1.93 million. Shareholders' equity totalled JD9.8 million, an 8.8 per cent increase over the 1996 total.

Jordan accounts for \$200m of total guarantees provided by major Arab institution

THE INTER Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation has provided a total of \$1.4 billion in guarantees last year with Jordan taking a 15 per cent share or about \$200 million of the amount, the corporation's director for operations, Abdul Magsoud Isa, said in a lecture at the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) recently.

The corporation covers non-commercial risks such as confiscation and nationalisation, inability to transfer funds or war. It

also provides guarantees to Arab exporters to other Arab countries such as the bankruptcy of the importer in addition to other non-commercial risks.

JIA President Bassam Saket said the lecturer was invited by his organisation and the topic of investment guarantees and export guarantees was discussed Thursday during the visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the Central Bank (Al Ra'i).

Broker sees investors continuing to focus on bank shares

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Banking sector took the lion's share of the turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during last week's trading which declined by almost 59.2 per cent compared with the previous week, a broker said Friday.

The AFM weekly bulletin indicated that turnover during the past week amounted to JD4.9 million, compared to JD12 million in the previous week.

The bulletin showed that 2.8 million shares were traded and spread over 2,522 contracts. Daily trading amounted to JD1.2 million compared to JD2.4 million a week ago.

Naim Nageeb, a broker at the AFM, said the Arab and Housing banks received the attention of local and foreign investors due to their "competitive prices."

"Most of the trading in the two banks' shares was recorded by non-Jordanian investors. This attitude will continue to prevail for quiet

some time," Mr. Nageeb told the Jordan Times.

Earlier this year, the two banks decided to distribute a free share to each shareholder, which led to the split of their shares and their prices reduced by half of the normal rate.

He said that among the reasons that led to the decline in the turnover was the one day holiday on Monday, which reduced the number of working days to four compared with five in the previous week.

The broker indicated that

other sectors did not record a tangible turnover "because their financial situations were not encouraging."

Mr. Nageeb said industrial sector shares are mostly linked to foreign factors "such as the situation in Iraq, which accounts for the bulk of the Kingdom's foreign trade."

The AFM bulletin indicated the general price index increased to 180.29 point compared with 179.3 point in the previous week, or 0.98 point increase.

It showed that the banking sector won JD2.5 million of the total turnover, or 52.5 per cent, followed by the industrial sector with JD1.7 million, or 35.8 per cent. The services sector was in third place at JD530,000, or 10.8 per cent and finally insurance sector with JD46,000 or 0.9 per cent.

Out of the 83 firms that traded at the AFM, 27 firms recorded increase in their share prices, 39 companies registered decrease while 17 firms witnessed no change in their prices.



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 447171 / 447172
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD [23/05/1998 - 27/05/1998]
WEEKLY REPORT

DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	MARKET SHARE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
HIGH	LOW														
209.000	170.000	ARAB BANK	-16.8	0.39	243	10130	207353	206.50	206.50	201.00	205.00	+4.50	204.452	1.15	4
1.740	1.420	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.5	4.23	53	28362	47414	1.48	1.73	1.44	1.44	-0.02	1.478	0.67	4
1.340	1.110	BANK OF JORDAN	4.1	0.00	9	3979	3804	1.32	1.32	1.31	1.31	-0.01	1.311	0.39	3
1.020	0.800	KID. EAST INV. FUND	41.1	0.00	29	43300	41285	0.94	1.00	0.93	0.93	-0.07	0.953	0.43	4
1.630	1.400	JOR. INVEST. BANK	11.3	0.00	25	750	1235	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	-	1.420	0.03	2
4.510	2.970	THE HOUSING BK.	18.4	3.41	222	53445	273907	2.97	3.50	2.84	2.93	-0.04	2.931	0.93	4
1.590	1.800	JOR. KOWAT BANK	0.5	0.00	19	5214	17358	1.95	1.90	1.86	1.89	-0.04	1.883	0.61	4
0.720	0.440	JOR. ZULF BANK	4.0	10.45	33	14793	11477	0.48	0.49	0.47	0.47	-0.01	0.483	0.04	4
2.500	1.740	JOR. SALAMIC BANK	19.3	0.00	51	33459	43444	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	-0.04	1.888	1.53	4
1.430	1.450	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	12.7	4.04	6	400	450	1.42	1.45	1.40	1.45	-0.03	1.425	0.04	2
1.550	1.470	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	-	0.00	1	500	1355	1.52	1.52	1.55	1.55	+0.03	1.550	0.09	1
0.970	0.920	BRIT. AL-MAL (SOCIETY)	4.4	0.00	3	1300	1174	0.90	0.91	0.90	0.90	-	0.905	0.05	3
BANKS															
SECTORS															
484 241278 2537197 INDEX NUMBER : 275.50 CHANGE : + 1.482															
1.000	0.810	ARABIAN BEAR INSUR.	44.7	0.00	4	3900	3240	0.82	0.90	0.82	0.85	+0.03	0.831	1.95	3
2.240	2.100	JOR. PRINCE INSUR.	4.0	11.48	5	4550	3750	2.15	2.15	2.14	2.14	-0.01	2.143	2.07	2
1.140	1.140	JOR. PRINCE INSUR.	9.4	0.00	1	250	270	1.14	1.08	1.08	1.08	-0.04	1.080	0.18	1
2.200	2.100	PHILADELPHIA INSUR.	17.1	0.00	1	50	108	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	-	2.140	0.03	1
2.310	2.200	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.3	0.00	1	100	223	2.31	2.33	2.33	2.33	+0.02	2.330	0.05	1
18 8250 13402 INDEX NUMBER : 131.74 CHANGE : 0.002															
2.070	2.000	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	5.9	5.39	21	4168	8517	2.07	2.07	2.03	2.04	-0.03	2.043	0.28	3
1.120	1.030	NATL. PORTFOLIO	11.5	0.00	42	57750	40913	1.07	1.07	1.04	1.05	-0.02	1.055	1.55	4
0.500	0.300	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.4	0.00	2	350	258	0.88	0.85	0.85	0.85	-0.03	0.851	0.07	1
0.450	0.330	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	0.00	0.00	43	38500	14288	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	-0.01	0.411	1.13	2
0.450	0.440	AL-BA	8.5	7.23	2	1050	5428	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	-0.01	0.445	0.09	2
1.100	1.060	KID. EAST HOTELS	152.0	0.00	5	5100	5508	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	-	1.080	1.00	3
4.050	2.080	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	10.0	1.99	55	87450	174299	2.09	2.05	2.00	2.01	-0.08	2.014	4.32	4
0.950	0.910	HAKKA EDUCATION	16.2	0.00	15	5075	7429	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	-	0.920	1.79	4
1.540	1.500	UNIFIED CO.	4.7	7.28	15	6000	5112	1.50	1.52	1.51	1.51	+0.01	1.519	1.20	4
201 208443 269911 INDEX NUMBER : 115.03 CHANGE : + 1.093															
1.100	1.100	ATTACHEES	-	0.00	1	5000	5500	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	-	1.100	1.75	1
2.420	2.420	JOR. PETROL FACT.	14.9	0.00	44	58217	145151	2.46	2.51	2.48	2.48	-0.02	2.493	0.94	4
5.700	5.420	ARAB POTASH CO.	25.8	0.00	14	16500	87982	5.42	5.35	5.25	5.25	-0.17	5.294	0.20	3
10.450	10.100	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.1	0.00	43	4245	42573	10.25	10.40	10.10	10.38	+0.13	10.259	0.64	4
5.220	5.000	JORDAN TANNING	7.4	8.42	4	125	544	5.00	4.75	4.75	4.75	-0.25	4.740	0.12	1
1.970	1.350	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	11.8	0.00	8	2550	2923	1.57	1.50	1.45	1.49	-0.08	1.495	0.55	2
1.240	1.130	JOR. SUPPLY-CHM.	72.1	0.00	17	3181	3781	1.10	1.12	1.12	1.12	-	1.150	0.41	2
6.350	6.150	JOR. WOODSTOCK MILLS	8.7	3.03	2	800	5220	6.35	6.40	6.45	6.40	+0.05	6.455	0.20	1
5.380	5.200	ARAB PHARM. IND.	14.6	0.00	154	44958	238204	5.20	5.42	5.24	5.29	-0.05	5.298	5.00	4
1.500	1.740	JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	7.7	5.48	2	450	792	1.77	1.74	1.74	1.74	-0.01	1.740	0.09	1
1.190	1.170	JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	5.8	8.47	10	4018	7351	1.18	1.15	1.18	1.18	-	1.183	1.87	2
1.510	1.430	CHEMICAL IND.	8.00	0.00	10	50	70	1.43	1.40	1.40	1.40	-0.03	1.400	1.00	2
5.800	5.500	DAR ALBAHAR DV. INV.	6.7	4.31	6	1137	4320	5.58	5.58	5.55	5.55	-0.03	5.558	0.15	2
2.790	2.500	ARAB ALUM. IND.	14.9	10.34	18	11595	27274	2.53	2.45	2.24	2.28	-0.25	2.252	1.53	3
0.480	0.460	LIVERPOOL 6 POOLING	16.2	0.00	25	25450	14155	0.44	0.48	0.44	0.44	-0.04	0.477	0.58	3
0.720	0.690	ARAB PAPER COM. TRD.	26.3	0.00	70	40251	57401	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.73	-0.01	0.733	2.79	4
0.550	0.520	NATIONAL IND.	-	0.00	23	13482	6875	0.52	0.51	0.51	0.51	-0.01	0.510	1.25	5
0.450	0.390	DIZIYUNO, YEMSO, CHEM.	-	0.00	62	51750	22745	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	-0.01	0.440	1.25	4
1.300	1.220	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	12.5	6.54	18	11170	11170	1.22	1.22	1.14	1.22	-	1.175	0.74	4
1.190	1.080	MAXI-CHEM WAREHOUSE	45.2	0.00	45	30350	51677	1.08	1.07	1.04	1.05	-0.03	1.044	0.05	4
0.410	0.390	JOR. SUPPLY-CHM.	11.4	0.00	15	21510	16493	0.39	0.40	0.39	0.39	-0.01	0.394	0.55	3
1.410	1.270	ARAB PHARM. CO.	14.6	4.55	27	10495	15987	1.33	1.34	1.31	1.32	-0.01	1.323	1.10	4
0.490	0.470	KAWTHER INVEST.	-	0.00	1	200	58	0.47	0.49	0.49	0.49	+0.02	0.490	0.10	1
0.890	0.850	UNIV. MOD. INDUS.	12.7	6.98	17	11100	5541	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.86	-	0.860	1.85	4
0.360	0.340	JOR. RESOURCES	9.0	14.53	43	34350	24015	0.34	0.37	0.37	0.37	+0.01	0.361	0.54	4
1.380	1.320	MAXI-CHEM WAREHOUSE	9.6	7.10	13	31000	49710	1.32	1.37	1.37	1.37	-	1.370	2.08	4
0.890	0.860	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	12.5	11.49	18	11550	9944	0.86	0.87	0.84	0.87	+0.01	0.863	1.44	4
1.390	1.340	EL. X-RAY READY WEAR	48.4	0.00	15	7430	10234	1.36	1.39	1.34	1.38	-0.02	1.378	0.90	5
1.310	1.200	INTL. TOBACCO	7.0	5.83	27	20990	24904	1.21	1.21	1.19	1.20	-0.01	1.195	2.09	4
1.140	1.100	UNIV. CHEM. 6 VEG.	11.2	0.00	13	18585	20553	1.10	1.14	1.10	1.11	-0.01	1.106	0.42	3
0.720	0.700	JORDAN STEEL	9.5	0.24	18	40251	515315	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	-	0.740	0.10	4
0.590	0.550	KID. EAST COMPLEX	10.5	0.00	55	42700	35827	0.55	0.58	0.54	0.57	+0.02	0.567	1.28	4
1.000	1.000	ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT.	54.5	0.00	1	2000	2000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-	1.000	0.33	1
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0.970	0.910	EXPORT 4 YIN. BEX. 752	17.2	0.00	34	60700	41295	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.93	-0.01	0.930	3.04	4
1.150	1.150	ISLAHIC INSURANCE CO.	103.0	0.00	5	29000	33110	1.15	1.15	1.05	1.05	-0.10	1.142	0.97	2
0.470	0.410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	-	0.00	25	59150	24637	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	-	0.434	1.00	3
0.510	0.490	KID. EAST INV. FUND	28.0	0.00	4	3750	550	0.50	0.51	0.50	0.50	-0.01	0.500	0.03	1
0.500	0.500	KAWTHER INVEST.	0.00	0.00	1	150	71	0.50	0.47	0.47	0.47	-0.03	0.473	0.03	1
0.720	0.480	ARAB FZ. INVEST.	-	0.00	43	84730	33657	0.40	0.40	0.39	0.40	-	0.397	0.47	4
0.470	0.750	UNION INV. 50%	-	0.00	15	57945	12114	0.77	0.77	0.75	0.75	-0.02	0.753	2.18	5
0.700	0.440	AL-DARILYAN	39.2	0.00	17	47281	44507	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	-	0.440	1.45	4
1.000	1.000	AL-SABAH INV. CO.	383.1	0.00	17	133234	123335	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-	1.000	1.37	2
1.800	1.400	CENTURY INV. GROUP	0.00	0.00	1	250	388	1.42	1.55	1.55	1.55	-0.08	1.552	0.03	1
0.450	0.450	ARAB FOOD & MED.	-	0.00	44	157450	70073	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.45	-	0.444	0.54	4
0.360	0.300	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	38.0	0.00	39	47450	15844	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	-0.02	0.333	0.93	3
0.130	0.330	JOR. RES. INVEST. FUND	0.00	0.00	21	40350	24015	0.33	0.32	0.30	0.31	-0.02	0.303	2.63	4
0.420	0.310	MAXI-CHEM WAREHOUSE	6900.0	0.00	1	400	134	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	-	0.340	0.16	1
0.150	0.590	KID. EAST INV. FUND	0.00	0.00	44	47302	35345	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.41	-0.01	0.410	0.25	7
1.450	1.450	UNION INVESTOR 87.52	10.5	7.58	24	22074	34788	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	-0.01	1.450	0.44	4
0.490	0.500	ARAB FZ. INVEST.	0.00	0.00	5	13944	9111	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	+0.01	0.479	0.13	2
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Sports

Pacers attempt to put Game 5 humiliation behind them

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — There's no tomorrow for the Indiana Pacers if they don't come through in Game 6.

A humbling 106-87 loss to two-time defending champion Chicago has the Pacers in a do-or-die situation in the Eastern Conference finals.

The Bulls can wrap up the series and head to Utah with a chance for their sixth league championship in eight years with a victory at Market Square Arena. If the Pacers survive, Game 7 will be Sunday night in Chicago.

"There's a sense of urgency, but by no means do we look at this like it's our last practice," Indiana point guard Mark Jackson said Thursday. "We fully expect to go back to Chicago."

In the Western Conference, the Jazz have been biding their time since completing a sweep in Sunday's finals against the Los Angeles Lakers. The start of the finals is still five days away, and the Jazz don't even know their opponent yet.

Back East, Jackson, along with his teammates and coaches, reviewed videotape of their futile effort in the first half of Wednesday's game. Indiana trailed 57-32 at halftime after going scoreless for more than five minutes and failing to make a single basket in more than 14 minutes.

"They did what they wanted to do at both ends of the court."

When you allow them to do that, they're tough to beat," Jackson said.

The Pacers are undefeated at home in the playoffs this year and beat the Bulls here by two points in Games 3 and 4.

"We looked at the videotape, the first half. They were clearly the more aggressive team," Indiana center Rik Smits said. "I don't know what caused us to come out like that. It (Game 6) could very well be our last game of the season, and we've got to play that way."

Coches Larry Bird has no doubts his team can extend its season.

"My concern is to get these guys to play as hard as they can, just lay it all on the line. If they come out and give me a great effort, and get beat, I can take that," he said.

Bird put the Pacers through a lengthy, physical practice that he described as "harder than normal."

"If we come in happy that we beat the Chicago Bulls twice, we're done for the season."

Reggie Miller said the Pacers need to be more aggressive "taking the ball to the hole, starting from the inside out, establishing a post game."

In Chicago, coach Phil Jackson gave his team the day off Thursday, hoping they can maintain their momentum from Game 5.

"We just tried to raise our level of play," said Scottie Pippen, whose hard drive to the basket following the opening tip set the tone for Chicago's best performance in this year's playoff.

"We came out a little more hungry, came out more aggressive, more determined, and it showed on the scoreboard," said Pippen, who had 20 points in 23 minutes.

"It was unexpected dominance," said Jordan, who had 29 points on 12-for-20 shooting. "We didn't expect that. We figured this team (Indiana) would come in and fight hard with a key player (Jalen Rose) being out, and we took it to them."

Rose was suspended from the game by the NBA for leaving the bench area during an shoving incident between Miller and Chicago's Ron Harper. Rose will be back for Friday night's game.

"To lose the way we did really affects your pride," Smits said. "The way we struggled, that affects confidence. I mean, we missed 18 field goals in a row. That gets to you at a certain point."

Wright's World Cup dreams over

CASABLANCA (AFP) — England Ian Wright's World Cup dream was shattered here on Thursday night as coach Glenn Hoddle was forced to rule the Arsenal striker out of his France 98 squad.

The 34-year-old Highbury striker went down hurt after 24 minutes of Wednesday's 1-0 win over Morocco in the Hassan II tournament.

Wright was coming to grips with a Moroccan defender when he collapsed as if he had been shot, with his left hamstring immediately encased in ice as he was escorted to the dressing room.

Hoddle had hoped that the injury was not as serious as first thought, and a terse Wright was not limping as he left the Mohamed V Stadium to fly back to England's World Cup training base in La Manga, Spain, on Wednesday night.

But a scan carried out by medical experts in Spain on Thursday confirmed the worst and the injury requires a minimum two week recovery period.

The injury is in the same left leg that kept Wright out for almost the whole of 1998 and the striker was packing his bags on Friday, with the FA reporting he would be leaving La Manga shortly.

Wright, who had pinned so many hopes on finally making it to the World Cup finals, will be devastated at what looks like the end of his international career, although his thoughts were as much for the players he was leaving behind.

"I'm so disappointed, above all because I think England can go a very long way in this World Cup and I wanted so much to be part of that with the boys," said Wright, from La Manga. "No manager has shown greater faith in me than Glenn Hoddle. 'I can promise the boys that they won't have a bigger supporter in France or at home than me.'"

Wright had hoped an appearance in the Finals would prove the pinnacle of his career and Hoddle was known to want the striker and his infectious good humour around the England camp.

The season had started so well for Wright when he scored the goals he needed to overturn Cliff Bastin's club record 178 goals, topping that mark with a hat-trick against Bolton in September.

The goals kept coming in the first month of campaign with Wright having nine to his credit by the time England travelled to Rome for their final World Cup qualifier against Italy.

Wright, playing up front in the absence of skipper Alan Shearer, gave a tireless display and was inches away from winning the match in injury time when he took the ball round keeper Angelo Peruzzi only for his shot to hit the upright. Even so Wright celebrated longer and louder than any other of the England men on duty.

Wright's misery opens up opportunities for others with Tottenham striker Les Ferdinand and Coventry's Dion Dublin perhaps feeling closer to selection than they were before.

But for Wright the news represented the end of all he had worked for in his career. At 34, 35 in November, he was running out of time and he knows it.

FRENCH OPEN Kuerten, Rafter out

PARIS (AFP) — Russian underdog Marat Safin caused another sensation at the French Open on Friday when he defeated defending champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil in a five-set thriller on a sun-drenched centre-court.

And he showed a refreshing touch of class when he overruled the umpire to give back a point to his opponent.

"You have to be a gentleman on court," explained the 18-year-old who is based in Spain.

"If I see the ball is good you have to say it is good. If I see the ball is 'good' I can't say it is 'out'. I don't care if I lose the point. You have to be friendly on court."

His gesture and remarks were reminiscent of the young Mats Wilander who overruled an umpire's decision and replayed a match point against Argentina's Jose Luis Clerc in a semi-final in 1982. Wilander, who was 17 years 9 months at the time, went on to win the tournament.

The 116th-ranked Safin, who put out American Andre Agassi in the previous round, finally came through 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 against the eighth-seeded Kuerten in 2hr 47min.

He now plays Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic, who put out Jan-Michael Gambill of the United States 6-4, 2-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/0).

"I am playing unbelievable at the moment," beamed Safin, who became the first qualifier in the history of the tournament to beat a defending champion.

"I start to hit and everything go in. It's just luck. Two times I am playing like this. Maybe next day I will hit everything out. It's impossible for me to play better."

Asked if he felt tired after his two five set matches, Safin replied: "I am running unbelievable. I think my physical condition is very good."

Safin, who has played only two Tour events so far this year, first hit the headlines before his arrival in the French capital by his plucky performance when he went down in five sets to Jim Courier in the decisive fifth rubber of a first-round Davis Cup clash against the

United States.

At Philadelphia, he defeated Wayne Black of Zimbabwe in the first round before falling to Sheng Shaliken of the Netherlands in the second. And at Barcelona he beat Magnus Larsson and Jin Novak before going out to Carlos Costa.

Kuerten was the second man's seed to be beaten on Friday.

Earlier Patrick Rafter, the No. 4, went out to fellow-Australian Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 to reach a third-round showdown with Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson.

So far eight of the 16 men's seeds have failed to survive the first week at the Championships.

The others to disappear have been Pete Sampras, Karol Kucera, Jonas Bjorkman, Greg Rusedski, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Petr Korda.

"It's tough to come back and defend your title," admitted Kuerten after his defeat.

"It's tough to lose but I can't be too disappointed. We both had chances to win, and in a fifth set anything can happen. I am playing well."

Referring to Safin, Kuerten said: "He's very strong and hits the ball hard. If he keeps playing like that he will go a long way. He's a very fair player and a nice guy off the court. He's good for the Tour."

The stamina-sapping red clay claimed two victims when South African Wayne Ferreira twisted his ankle and Dutch qualifier Johan Van Lommel retired with a strained thigh muscle.

Ferreira was trailing title favourite Marcelo Rios 1-6, 3-5 when he fell heavily trying to chase down a deep shot. The third-seeded Chilean now plays third-seeded Spaniard Albert Costa who overcame Boban Ullrich of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-3, 6-0.

Van Lommel, who had felt twinges of pain from his thigh in his surprise first-round victory over compatriot Jan Siemerink, pulled up in his second-round match against 1989 champion Michael Chang.

Chang, who was leading 7-5, 6-2, 3-0 when the Dutch player dropped out, now plays Francisco Clavet

of Spain. Clavet put out Frenchman Olivier Delaire in four sets.

Clavet's twelfth-seeded compatriot Carlos Moya reached the last sixteen when he beat Australian Andrew Ilie in straight-sets while Brazilian Fernando Meligeni added to Australian woe by beating Todd Woodbridge in straight-sets.

Other winners included seeded Spaniards Alex Corretja, the number-14, and Alberto Berasategui, the number-16.

In the women's singles there were no surprises. World number-one Martina Hingis took another step towards the only major title she has never won when she beat Karina Habsudova of Slovakia in straight-sets to reach the last sixteen.

Hingis, a finalist last year, scored a 6-3, 6-2 victory in 55 minutes and now faces Israel's 1991 French junior champion Anna Smashnova who came back after a shaky start to defeat Barbara Rittner of Germany 1-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Hingis' American teenage rival Venus Williams continued to race towards a potentially-explosive quarter-final against the top-seeded Swiss by eliminating Alexia Dechaume-Balleret of France 6-2, 6-1.

So far Williams has dropped only nine games since the tournament started.

Monica Seles, 'wide-awake' this time, surged into the last sixteen when she scored a straight-sets victory over Austria's Barbara Schwarz.

The three-times champion, who nearly exited in the previous round when she went one set down to another Austrian Marion Maruska after being caught taking a nap unaware that organisers had reorganised the playing schedule.

Seles, who is playing in her first tournament since the death of her father and coach earlier this month, now plays Chanda Rubin of the United States who put out Miho Saeki of Japan 6-3, 6-4, for a place in the quarter-finals.

Anna Kournikova ruthlessly underlined her title pretensions by sweeping into the last sixteen by beating Sweden's Asa Carlsson 6-0, 6-0 in 49 minutes.

The 16-year-old American-based Russian, who is making her second appearance at Roland Garros and who has risen from 32nd to 13th in the rankings this season, now plays third-seed Jana Novotna. The Czech player put out Elena Tatarkova from the Ukraine 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).

Meanwhile defending champion Iva Majoli, who scored one of the biggest upsets in the history of the tournament when she beat Hingis for the women's title last year, notched up a revenge victory over Natasha Zvereva of Belarus.

The 19-year-old from Zagreb reached the third-round with a 6-3, 6-4 win in just over an hour.

"I started rushing things and made mistakes — and she's a dangerous player if you let her come back," said Majoli.

"I kept saying to myself 'take your time...concentrate'. Fortunately I served a pretty good game at 4-all."

Zvereva, one of the world's top doubles players, upset Majoli in the first round of last year's grass court event in Eastbourne and the Croatian, who had just triumphed at Roland Garros, was furious at the time because the match was played on a tiny outside court.

Zvereva, 27, who suffered one of the severest defeats in French Open history when she was beaten 6-0, 6-0 in just 34 minutes in the 1988 final by Steffi Graf, finally netted a drop shot after a marathon final game to send Majoli into a third-round showdown with Argentinian qualifier Mariana Diaz-Oliva.

The South American beat Korean Sung-Hee Park 6-2, 6-2.

Completing the women's second-round matches, the in-form Patty Schnyder of Switzerland defeated French opponent Julie Halard-Decugis and now plays Silvia Farina of Italy.

Schnyder, who has risen to 18 in the world rankings and who put out fifth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa in the first round, ousted Halard-Decugis 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 while Farina chalked up a 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Joannette Kruger of South Africa.

Ahmad Daoud wins National Rumman Hill Climb

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ahmad Daoud won the National Rumman Hill Climb in his Ford Escort Cosworth after clocking a time of 02:11.06 Friday.

Yasser Jarar in a Renault 5 GT Turbo came second with 02:15.06 and Amjad Farrah in a Ford Sierra Cosworth with 02:17.90 came in third.

The event witnessed Farrah's comeback to the hill climb scene after a 3-year absence.

Maya Al Mufti, the only woman in the race, came in the 27th place in a Triumph 8 clocking 02:34.15.

Mufti's participation is the first in a Rumman Climb.

Recently Mufti took part in the Rallie dn Printemps in Lebanon, in which she did well in a Nissan Pulsar.

The bad luck which haunted Jordan's champion Fares Bustami last year seemed to have ended.

Last year, Bustami had an accident in his Toyota Celica. On Friday he came fourth with 02:18.20 in his

Daihatsu Charmant SPL.

Driver Mohammed Al Maani left the race in the first round after facing some mechanical problems.

The race consisted of two rounds and one special round for the best ten depending on their best time.

The drivers had to beat 3km of meandering track with 27 sharp curves.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal watched the race closely throughout the day.

Thirty-one drivers took part in the race organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

RACJ's next event will be the International Rumman Hill Climb scheduled for August.

Klinsmann doubtful and Helmer out of Colombia friendly

BONN (AFP) — Germany's star striker Jürgen Klinsmann is doubtful for Sunday's international against Colombia in Frankfurt however defender Thomas Helmer will definitely be missing.

Both were flown out of Germany's pre-World Cup training camp in Helsinki to Munich on Wednesday for medical examinations and received their bad news on the same day. Klinsmann has a badly bruised calf muscle, unwillingly inflicted by fellow striker Ulf Kirsten during a training exercise.

"The calf muscle is swollen which is not a problem," the blonde Tottenham Hotspur player said. "I will be able to start training again on Friday but it's touch and go whether I will make it in time for Saturday against Colombia."

"I will only take a few days to mend. My place for the World Cup is not in danger." That is not the case with Helmer, whose prognosis is somewhat worse.

He has a muscle tear in his thigh which could bring with it a compulsory two week rest period, placing his World Cup nomination in jeopardy.

The Bayern Munich captain struggled at the Helsinki training camp, largely because of a knee injury which he brought with him from the final weeks of the Bundesliga. This torn muscle just caps his recent woes.

Germany struggled to a 0-0 draw Wednesday against Finland with the players complaining they could do no better because of tiredness from 10 days of constant, hard training behind them.

Vogts said bluntly. "I can't accept talk that we trained too hard. I expected more desire from the players. I'm tired of looking for excuses like, the pitch was bad and the grass too green."

"The only excuse we have is that we weren't fit enough." Vogts expressed himself satisfied however with Lothar Matthaus in his comeback match after three and a half years away. The 37-year-old tried hard Wednesday to drive his side forward from the last line of defence but found the midfield far too crowded as Germany failed to take control of that area.

Wingers Joerg Heinrich and Michael Tarnat, who played poorly against the Finns, are likely to be dropped Saturday in favour of Stefan Reuter and Christian Ziege. Midfielder Andreas Moeller, who watched the Finnish game from the bench, will also get a recall against Colombia.

Vogts has said he expects a definite improvement as there is no time left to radically reorganise his squad. Germany play their opening World Cup match against the United States in Paris on June 15th.

Finland's coach Richard Moeller-Nielsen was generous in his appraisal of Wednesday's match, acknowledging that the visitors were lacking their usual edge after 10 days of hard work. He still rated Germany a favourite though for lifting their fourth world title. "He is a good friend," Vogts smiled knowingly. "He has a lot to make good for though after the '92 European Cup final in Sweden (when Germany lost 2-0 to Denmark, coached by Moeller-Nielsen). I thank him for the compliment. I'll be able to sleep better now."

Syria champions; Jordan 2nd in women's karate championship

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 1st Arab Karate Championship for Women concluded Thursday with Syria taking first place after clinching most of the gold.

Jordan came in second followed by Lebanon in third place.

Syria took three gold medals, 3 silver and one bronze. Meanwhile, Jordan took two gold, 3 silver and two bronze medals.

Lebanon, who won first place in group fighting category, took one gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

Palestine came fourth with one gold, one silver and 2 bronze medals.

The Crown Hotel team came in the fifth place with one silver and one bronze medal and Iraq came in last place with three bronze medals.

The Crown Hotel sponsoring one team.

Six teams took part in the 3-day tournament: Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Jordan with two teams.

Jordan's team consisted of: Muna Ali Khawajah, Samah Abu Lail, Buthaina Al Muhaisri, Reem Al Rawashdeh, Reem Al Qudah and Shaza Fawzi.

Coach: Ahmad Mutaweb'

Crown Hotel team consisted of: Fadwa Ali Abed Hafez, Mariam Mohammed Harb, Nesreen Abu Karsh, Marina Mohammed Harb, Esraa' Al Khateeh and Sawwan Madanat. Coach: Abdullah Khaled.

Meanwhile the men's

karate national team returned from Egypt after taking the third place in President Hosni Mubarak Championship.

Teams from ten countries took part in the event including Turkey, Sweden, Morocco, Oman, Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

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'PNA will declare state unilaterally in 1999 if deadlock remains'

RAMALLAH (AP) — The Palestinians will not be deterred by U.S. misgivings and will declare a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in May 1999 if there is no progress in negotiations with Israel, senior Palestinian officials said Friday.

The officials responded to White House spokesman Mike McCurry who said Thursday that the United States would consider a unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood a violation of the peace accords and "most likely not" recognise such an entity.

Mr. McCurry's statement marked the first time the Clinton administration took a public stand on the issue.

The remarks may have been intended as a gesture to Israel as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu grapples with U.S. demands for a troop pullback from 13 per cent of the West Bank.

Israeli media reports have said Mr. Netanyahu asked the Clinton administration to come out publicly against a unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood, arguing that this might sway hawkish in his Cabinet to agree to a pullback.

Under the interim Israeli-Palestinian peace accords, the five-year period of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip ends on May 4, 1999.

By that day, Israel and the Palestinians are to have negotiated a permanent peace agreement that would set final borders and define the status of disputed lands, including east Jerusalem.

However, the two sides are still hung up on interim issues, such as a three-phase Israeli troop pullback, and it appears unlikely that permanent status negotiations will begin anytime soon.

Arafat, Beilin meet to preserve hope in peace

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Prominent Israeli Dove Yossi Beilin met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat here Friday to "keep alive the hope that peace is possible."

"I think that it is important to keep alive the hope that peace is possible between the two peoples, even if some difficulties are at present unavoidable," Mr. Beilin told reporters after the meeting.

"It is important that dialogue continue between the Israeli peace camp and the Palestinian leadership, especially when this dialogue is non-existent between Mr. Arafat and our prime minister," said Mr. Beilin, leader of the dovish wing of Israel's main opposition Labour Party.

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat, who also attended the meeting in the Palestinian parliament building here, said the current situation in the region "is in fact becoming rather dangerous."

"The Palestinians are making every effort possible to relaunch the peace process and prevent an explosion of violence," he said.

Israel has so far rejected a U.S. plan to relaunch peace talks with the Palestinians which have been deadlocked for the past 14 months, saying the plan's proposal for a 13 per cent West Bank pullback threatens its security.

Palestinian Parliament Speaker Ahmad Qureia and chief peace negotiator Saeb Erekat said Friday that the Palestinians would do their utmost to negotiate a peace accord with Israel by the deadline.

If talks proceed in a promising way, the Palestinians would likely be willing to go beyond the deadline, they said.

"But if the Israelis are to continue wasting time, then we will be free to do it [declare a state]," Mr. Qureia told the Associated Press. The Palestinians expect broad international support for such a declaration, Mr. Qureia said.

Added Erekat: "If we are pushed into a corner and Mr. Netanyahu continues with his non-compliance policy, what does Mr. McCurry expect from the Palestinians?" Mr. Netanyahu has said he would retaliate for a unilateral declaration of statehood, but has not said what steps he would take. It is believed he will annex parts of the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan, was subdued Friday in his reaction to Mr. McCurry, saying the statement was in line with the American position that neither side should take steps that would pre-empt the outcome of the peace negotiations.

Using the same argument, the Clinton administration has demanded that Israel halt Jewish settlement construction in the West Bank and Gaza, though to no avail.



His Majesty King Hussein receives a token gift from Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Director General Nasser Judeh at the ceremony held to mark the inauguration of a new transmission station for Jordan Television's Channel Three (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

King opens Channel 3 transmission station

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday inaugurated a new transmission station for Jordan Television's Channel Three at Sweileh, northwest of Amman.

At the ceremony, the King praised the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation for its continued efforts to promote Jordan's image before the world.

Accompanied by several Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Chief of the Royal Court Faysal Tarawneh and other dignitaries, King Hussein toured the facility and was briefed by the corporation's Director General Nasser Judeh on the project, which was inaugurated as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of Independence Day.

Jerusalem Arabs complain to Arafat of harassment by Palestinian security

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A group of Palestinians complained to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's administration Friday that members of its security forces were abusing their power to steal, extort and harass residents of the Old City.

A community group calling itself the Khanqa Mosque Committee called on Mr. Arafat's Palestinian National Authority to "deal with outlaws from its official

agencies who exploit their position and take law into their hands for personal gain."

"We refuse this use of weapons, these armed gangs. The violations against our daughters are unacceptable," the group said in a statement.

The committee's spokesman, Abdul Rahim Mahmoud, said armed young men who claimed to be members of the security forces have been stealing and extorting from Old City resi-

dents and harassing young Palestinian women.

"This is not a political problem, it's a social and legal problem. We are not against the authority, we just want justice," he told AFP.

But he would not give specific examples of incidents. Palestinian security forces are not permitted by Israel to operate in Arab east Jerusalem, which was occupied and illegally annexed by the Jewish state in 1967.

But there are members of

the forces who live in Arab east Jerusalem and Israel frequently accuses them of operating illegally in the city, which the Palestinians want as the capital of a future state.

The committee, an informal grouping of religious Muslims in the Old City, conducted renovations on the Khanqa Mosque, a historic site, and concerns itself with social affairs, members said, without saying how many members the group had.

Sheikh Yassin arrives in Khartoum

KHARTOUM (AP) — The leader of the Islamist resistance movement, Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, arrived in Sudan on Friday, the eighth stop of his tour of Muslim nations.

"We hope officials and leaders will learn from the struggle of Sheikh Yassin," Hassan Turabi, Sudan's speaker and the ideologue behind the government, told state-run Radio Orduman after welcoming Sheikh Yassin at Khartoum's airport.

Sheikh Yassin, a 61-year-old quadriplegic, is touring Muslim countries to promote his group, which rejects the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords and advocates armed struggle against Israel.

Earlier this week, Sheikh Yassin was denied entry to

Jordan on the grounds that he had applied too late for a visa. He was also refused entry to Lebanon because his Palestinian passport was issued under agreement with Israel. Lebanon is officially at war with the Jewish state.

The Hamas leader is expected to travel to Pakistan and Malaysia. He has already visited Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Yemen and Syria.

Sheikh Yassin was released from an Israeli jail in October after serving 10 years of a life sentence.

He was freed in a prisoner swap for two Israeli agents who were arrested in Jordan after they botched an assassination attempt against the head of Hamas' political bureau in Amman.

Five wounded in clashes in Yemen

SANAA (AP) — Demonstrators clashed with police in southern Yemen on Thursday, leaving five people wounded, police said.

Three policemen were wounded in the riot in Mawdiyah in the province of Abyan. Some rioters opened fire on the security forces, police said.

The protesters were demanding the release of two opposition leaders, Ahmed Al Qamra of the Al Tajamou Party and Abbas Al Asaf of the Socialist Party, who were detained last week for taking part in an anti-government demonstration.

Police have sent reinforcements to Abyan for fear of renewed clashes.

Last month, two people were killed in clashes with police when more than 2,000 people staged a protest in the southern city of Hadramawt against price hikes and government suppression of civil liberties.

Yemen, a poor nation of 17 million on the Arabian peninsula, is still reeling from a 1994 civil war that was triggered by south Yemeni secessionists. The war nearly broke the union reached in 1990 between the conservative North and socialist South.

Israeli soldiers beat Gaza fishermen

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israeli soldiers beat four Palestinian fishermen from their boat off the coast of Gaza City and detained them, the fishermen said Friday.

Shukry Alwan, 33, said a group of 10 soldiers intercepted his boat and took him and three fellow fishermen to the nearby Israeli port of Ashdod Wednesday night, keeping them detained until their release the next morning.

"We were fishing 10 miles out, well within the 20 miles allowed to us. Their boat intercepted us and opened fire on our boat, damaging it. They then sunk two smaller boats that we had with us," Mr. Alwan told AFP.

An Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed the four men were taken to Ashdod.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PNA insists relations with Riyadh good

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority reaffirmed on Friday its "friendly" relations with Saudi Arabia, brushing off a Saudi paper which called Palestinian President Yasser Arafat too "seulite" to carry on the Palestinian cause. "Palestinian-Saudi relations are friendly and cordial. The Palestinian leadership continues to enjoy the support of Saudi Arabia for its struggle to win its national rights," said Arafat aide Tayeb Abdul Rahim. A meeting between Mr. Arafat and Saudi King Fahd in Jeddah on Sunday "reinforced our relations and opened the way to strengthening the Palestinian resistance to the intransigence of the Israeli government," Mr. Abdul Rahim said. The Saudi daily Al Riyadh, which is owned by Turki Al Sudeiri, a relative of King Fahd, ran an editorial on Tuesday saying Mr. Arafat "is no longer up to the struggle."

Earthquake rocks Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — An earthquake shook Egypt's capital Thursday night. The quake struck at 9.33 p.m. and lasted about one minute. People in multi-story buildings felt the whole structure shake, and many rushed outside. But police said there were no reports of casualties or destruction. Seismologists differed on the quake's strength and epicentre. The head of the Helwan Observatory outside Cairo, Abdul-Fattah Galal, told The Associated Press the magnitude was 6.2 and the epicentre 50 kilometres north of the city in the Mediterranean Sea near Cyprus. But the U.S. National Earthquake Centre in Golden, Colorado, said the "shallow" quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.5 and an epicentre 25 miles (40 km) east/southeast of Mersa Matruh, a port on Egypt's north-western coast. Persons contacted in Cyprus, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan told The Associated Press they did not feel the tremor.

Netanyahu neck-and-neck with Barak

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Exactly two years after the election which brought him to office, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is neck-and-neck with Labour opposition head Ehud Barak, according to an opinion poll released Friday. Mr. Netanyahu would win 38 per cent of the vote if an election was held today, while Mr. Barak would win 39 per cent, said the survey of 500 Israelis by the Gallup organisation, published by the Maariv newspaper. Twenty-three per cent of the respondents were undecided, according to the poll, which had a margin of error of four per cent. The poll showed a slight drop in support for Mr. Netanyahu who held a 41 per cent to 37 per cent edge over left-wing Labour's Barak in a Gallup poll last week.

French lawmakers recognise Armenian genocide

PARIS (AP) — Drawing an angry response from Turkey, French lawmakers on Friday unanimously passed a motion stating that France "publicly recognises the Armenian genocide of 1915." The motion now goes before the Senate. If passed, France would become the first major European country to use the term "genocide" to describe the deaths of about 1.5 million Armenians in Ottoman Turkey between 1915 and 1923. Turkey denies the deaths constituted genocide, insisting they were the result of a civil war, and strongly criticised the passing of the motion. "Terrorist acts against Turkish diplomats in France will escalate," Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said.

Middle East ponders consequences of first 'Islamic bomb'

By Charles Recknagel
Agence France Presse

NICOSIA — Pakistan's emergence as the world's first Muslim nuclear state provoked strong reaction in the Middle East Friday as Arab states pondered how the "Islamic bomb" could alter the balance of power with Israel.

A Saudi newspaper said Israel is likely to regard the Pakistani bomb as "pressure," and respond by demonstrating its own, never admitted, nuclear capability in open tests.

"Israeli nuclear tests in response to Pakistan's are to be feared because Israel sees an Islamic bomb which could be used as a means of pressure in the Middle East crisis," said an editorial in Al Madina newspaper.

Pakistan detonated five nuclear devices Thursday in response to similar tests by India earlier in the month.

Qatar's Al Raya newspaper called on Arab states to support Pakistan's nuclear tests as a "courageous" move by a Muslim country to "obtain the same kind of weapons [as the West] and to maintain some kind of balance with Israel," the Middle East's sole nuclear power.

In the United Arab Emirates, Al Ithad newspaper

criticised Washington for threatening sanctions on Pakistan but never on Israel over atomic weapons.

"Israel benefits from all the support [of the United States] to obtain conventional and non-conventional weapons while we bear threats and warning aimed at India and Pakistan," it said.

A Jordanian newspaper said the arms race between Pakistan and India could lead to a domino effect of countries seeking to emerge as nuclear powers.

"There is no doubt that this terrible thing will lead to a string of challenges whose effects could spill over the rim of the Indian subcontinent into wider regions including the Middle East," wrote a columnist in Al Dustour newspaper.

Libya also called on Washington to put sanctions on Israel "which possesses nuclear weapons" rather than on Pakistan for testing them.

"We are surprised by the United States' rush to impose sanctions on Pakistan when [Washington] won't even lift the smallest finger against the nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons which Israel has, as well as its nuclear-headed, long-range missiles," a commentator for the official JANA news agency wrote.

Israel has never officially confirmed that it has nuclear weapons but foreign experts estimate that

the Jewish state has between 100 and 200 warheads capable of being launched from ballistic missiles.

Israel said it has no intention of changing its position over nuclear weapons after the Pakistani tests.

"Israel sees no reason to change its position and we reaffirm that we will not be the first nation to introduce nuclear weapons into the region," said David Bar-Ilan, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Bar-Ilan also said Israel was "concerned" by the possibility of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. He added: "The problem is not that Pakistan is an Islamic country, but these tests may encourage Tehran and Baghdad to acquire nuclear weapons."

Iran, itself suspected of seeking to join the club of atomic powers, called on both Pakistan and India Friday to stop nuclear testing and an "atomic race" in the region.

In Lebanon, Al Safir newspaper wrote that the nuclear arms test race between India and Pakistan has shown that the "door to the nuclear club is wide open."

International criticism of Islamabad has been swift and unequivocal, with U.S. President Bill Clinton vowing to punish Pakistan with the same tough sanctions imposed on India earlier for its tests.

Elton John's concert celebrates N. Ireland peace agreement

BELFAST (AP) — More than 15,000 Protestants and Catholics rocked together in a dark hall with Sir Elton John's concert celebrating Northern Ireland's peace agreement. The historic accord was reached after the historic multi-party talks.

John, 40, looked forward to this for a long time. It's great to be back in the city, said John. Brian Northern Ireland Secretary, Mowlem, tripping a bit on the only formality of the occasion introduced the star as "Mr. — oh, sorry — Sir Elton John."

Profits from sale of the \$41 tickets will go toward improving facilities at Stormont, which will serve as the base for Northern Ireland's new cross-community government.

Rumours of walkout by member of Spice Girls

LONDON (AFP) — Speculation about the future of British pop wonders the Spice Girls was rife on Friday, after Geri Halliwell, "Ginger Spice," failed to perform with the rest of the band for the second night running. The group performed late Thursday in the Norwegian capital Oslo as a quartet, having also appeared without Halliwell on Wednesday night in London for BBC Television's National Lottery show. On Thursday, a band spokeswoman said Ginger Spice's absence was caused by a stomach bug, and that she was resting. But a spokesman for the Spice Girls on Friday said she could not comment on reports in The Sun tabloid that the red-haired singer had walked out, possibly for good.

Diana's two families to mark death anniversary separately

LONDON (AFP) — The two families of Diana, Princess of Wales, will commemorate the first anniversary of her death on Aug. 31 this year separately and in private, it was announced Thursday. Diana's sons, Princes William, 15, and Harry, 13, will be with Queen Elizabeth II, their father Prince Charles and grandfather Prince Philip at a private family prayer service at the Chapel Royal, the official Scottish royal residence Balmoral, said Buckingham Palace. But her brother Earl Charles Spencer and sisters Lady Jane Fellowes and Lady Sarah McCorquodale and their families will hold a private memorial service on the banks of the lake at Althorp, the ancestral family home north of London.

Courtney Love is sued by journalist

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A fashion show turned into a slugfest for a reporter who snapped Courtney Love's picture, the journalist claims in a lawsuit against the actress-singer. Belissa Cohen alleges in a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Thursday that the brawl began after she took a photograph of Love, who was in the audience during the public event last month. Cohen, who covers celebrities for various publications, said Love grabbed her hair and thrust a knee into her groin, then hit her in the face. Cohen is seeking unspecified damages.

Actress Cybill Shepherd says she's no lady

NEW YORK (AP) — Cybill Shepherd wants it known that she's no lady. "That's a pejorative term to me," the former fashion model turned actress-producer says in the June issue of Living Fit magazine. "Being a lady represents less than I can be." Feel free to call the 48-year-old Shepherd — sorry, though. She wants the world to know that women her age are "more beautiful, more sexy, more powerful than ever." "It's OK to get older, there's good stuff going on," says Shepherd, whose health regimen includes meditation, a treadmill, bicycling and pool workouts.

Turkish forces kill 1

(ISTANBUL, AFP) — Turkish forces in the south-eastern province of Iğdır killed 18 Kurdish separatist fighters dead, the Anadolu news agency said. Another 10 were killed in fighting on Saturday. Ten rebels and 200 soldiers were killed in the clashes on Friday. Local media described the "terrorist" attacks as "a new chapter in the struggle for members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) which has been fighting for a separate Kurdish state since 1984. Twenty PKK fighters were killed in the clashes on Thursday. Some 15,000 PKK fighters are believed to be in the north of Iraq near PKK bases on Iraqi territory."

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Efforts to UAE support Saudi crown

Agencies — THE UNITED Arab Emirates (UAE) supports efforts to convene an Arab summit on stalled Middle East talks, a minister of state for foreign affairs said on Saturday.

The UAE president stressed the necessity to hold an urgent expanded Arab summit to address challenges facing the Arab nation after the stalled peace process. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahayan said in remarks reported by the official WAM news agency.

He spoke after a meeting in Abu Dhabi on Saturday between UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

President Arafat, who made a surprise visit to Saudi Arabia on Monday, said in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

JTC, FLAG sign \$28m agreement

By Ahmed Naser
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A \$28 million agreement between the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC) and Fibre Link Around the Globe Ltd. (FLAG) was signed at the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications on Saturday.

Waleed Dweik, JTC's chairman of the board, signed on behalf of Jordan. Andre Band, FLAG's chairman on behalf of the international telecommunications carrier, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Sami Guno was in present.

The agreement stipulates FLAG build a landing station and provide equipment to link Jordan to its trans-oceanic cable that links the Middle East with Europe and Asia through the Suez Canal. Jordan will be linked to a branching unit that lies 15 kilometres from the Red Sea Port of Aqaba.

FLAG, according to the agreement, will build the landing station in Aqaba within a period of 12 months.

The 28,000 kilometre trans-oceanic cable, running from London to Tokyo, has a maximum capacity of 100 gigabits per second. The cable carries data communications, transmission, voice calls and television broadcasts.

According to the agreement, JTC will pay \$18 million over a period of 18 months for telecommunications services over an indefinite period of time through the cable and an additional \$1 million annually for operations and maintenance.

In practice, this means a two-megabyte international circuit running from London to Amman serving 150 subscribers making calls concurrently.

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PAKISTAN

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